



2025-2026

GRADUATE

COLLEGE CATALOG



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GENERAL INFORMATION

PEIRCE COLLEGE

Graduate Studies

1608 Walnut St., Suite 1900
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Toll free: 888-273-4723

Fax: 215-670-9125

Email: graduatestudies@peirce.edu

Online: www.peirce.edu

Portal: my.peirce.edu

Blog: blog.peirce.edu

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION FOR MAIN CAMPUS AND ALL LOCATIONS

School closing and delayed openings will be announced on:

KYWschools.com, CBS3, NBC 10, 6 ABC, and FOX 29

my.peirce.edu

X: @PeirceCollege

Facebook: Peirce College

Students may also sign up to receive text message alerts from the college. More information can be found on the My Info tab of the my.peirce.edu portal.

PEIRCE COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION.

Peirce College is an Equal Opportunity Institution. The College is committed to ensuring equal opportunity in all employment decisions, policies, and practices, and in connection with all educational programs and activities.

The College will not engage in or tolerate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, a religious group's actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, age, national origin, color, disability, marital status, familial status, veteran status, ancestry, genetic characteristics, pregnancy, childbirth, or medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth, creed, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, or any other protected classifications in its employment, admissions, programs, and activities as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and other applicable statutes and College policies.

All complaints of sexual misconduct should be brought to the immediate attention of the College's Title IX Coordinator, Kelly Schneider, Second Floor, Healey Hall, 514 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, (570) 961-7890 or Abbey Judge, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Healey Hall 223, 415 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA, (570) 955-1516, judgea@lackawanna.edu.

Peirce College will fully and promptly investigate all allegations of sexual misconduct and will take action reasonably designed to resolve the complaint in an equitable manner, end a hostile environment if one has been created, prevent its recurrence, and, when appropriate, take steps to remedy its effects on individuals and the college community.

Additional information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence can be found on the webpage or in the College Catalogs.

Additional information on Title IX requirements and how to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights is available from the Office of Civil Rights at <https://www2.ed.gov>, (800) 421-3481.

If a prospective or current student believes he or she requires a reasonable accommodation or has a question regarding educational services, activities, programs, or facilities that are accessible to or usable by students with disabilities, please contact the Associate Dean, Student Support Services at 215-670-9251.

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Accessibility Statement

Peirce College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for an accessible campus to include but not limited to gender neutral restrooms.

PEIRCE COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

Peirce College is an accredited institution and a member of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) www.msche.org. The College's accreditation status is **Accreditation Reaffirmed**. The Commission's most recent action on the institution's accreditation status on March 10, 2022 was to reaffirm accreditation. The next Self Study evaluation is scheduled for 2028-29. To view Peirce's Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS), please visit the College's [directory listing](#) on the Commission's webpage.

MSCHE is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Peirce College is authorized to award degrees by the [Pennsylvania Department of Education](#).

All inquiries concerning the accreditation of Peirce College can be directed to Rita Toliver-Roberts, Vice-President, Academic Affairs & Provost at provost@peirce.edu.

The College is approved for Veteran and Vocational Rehabilitation training. Covered individuals are any individuals, veterans, members of the National Guard, survivors and dependents of deceased and disabled veterans who are entitled to educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits. The Veterans Administration determines eligibility for benefits. The College has a designated certifying official for veteran's benefits.

State Authorization and Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is an agreement among member states, districts and territories in the United States, which establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to simplify the process of taking online courses for credit offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. SARA is overseen by a national council (NC-SARA) and administered by four regional education compacts.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) approved the Peirce College application to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) on December 12, 2016. NC-SARA welcomed Peirce as an institutional participant in January 2017. Please visit the NC-SARA website for current information including a directory of participating institutions.

DISCLAIMER

This Catalog is not a contract and is for informational purposes only. The College reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to update, revise, amend, discontinue, withdraw, suspend, modify, interpret, or make changes of any nature to this document as well as to any other policies, procedures, or programs of the College including, without limitation, with respect to the College's degree and non-degree academic programs of study, offerings, and requirements, departments, courses, announcements, class hours and schedule, academic calendar dates, tuition rates, fee schedules, financial aid offerings, minimum charges applicable under its refund policy and/or graduation requirements, at any time, with or without prior notice to any current or prospective student or employee or any other person. The most up-to-date catalog information can be found at www.peirce.edu.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION STATEMENT

We empower adult learners to improve their lives by achieving career goals through academic offerings aligned with evolving workforce needs.

VISION STATEMENT

To be a transformational leader focused on providing adult learners with innovative academic programs through flexible delivery options and dynamic partnerships.

PEIRCE COLLEGE CORE VALUES

Vision & Innovation – We believe visionary and innovative thinking is integral to our mission and critical for institutional growth. Being a visionary is at the core of who we are and the lens in which we view our roles. We know higher education, employers' needs, and the workforce are ever-changing. We understand how important it is to use creative thinking to channel our imagination and create new solutions. We know that our students need to be prepared with the skills and credentials required for jobs and professional growth, and we know employers need skilled people. At Peirce, we believe thinking creatively, trying new things, taking measured risk and adapting to changing circumstances are pivotal characteristics of success.

Excellence – Our commitment to excellence impels both individuals and the college to consistently strive for outcomes that are exemplary rather than satisfactory. Striving for excellence resonates through all aspects of the college from academic programming, adult learner-services, external partnerships, recruitment, and college operations. This value inspires us to recognize our people's significant achievements and contributions that fulfill our mission and further our strategy.

Integrity - Integrity, whether personal or institutional, implies coherence between words and acts. When faced with difficult decisions or hard choices we do the right thing even in adversity. We are committed to our values and we protect our college culture through our commitment to possessing integrity and acting ethically at an organizational level. Carrying out each action with honesty will foster trustworthiness amongst each other, with our adult learners, and in our dealings with others.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging - Diversity builds a community that fosters a climate that is open and welcoming to diverse people, ideas and perspectives. We strive to be a welcoming, caring, and equitable community where adult learners, faculty, and staff with different backgrounds, perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn, innovate, and work in an environment of respect, and feel empowered to engage in any community conversation.

Collaboration - We believe in the power of working together by building trust and strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders. We practice open and honest communication and sharing information that is essential for success. We treasure the opportunity to be recognized as a valued community partner.

Learning Centered – At Peirce, we approach learning as a process not a product. Learning at Peirce means increasing the capacity of our adult learners, our people and our organization to achieve the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will enable success. At bottom, learning at the College is about solving problems and creating opportunities.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

All students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the College's academic policies, procedures, and regulations. The College will not waive a regulation because a student claims unawareness of it. Students must adhere to the dates relating to application for graduation as well as other pertinent deadlines announced by the academic department or the Dean, Graduate Studies. Any changes in a

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student's educational schedule could have an effect on his or her academic or financial status. It is the student's responsibility to follow the appropriate academic policies, procedures, and regulations when making or adjusting educational plans. Students should contact their faculty advisor or the Dean, Graduate Studies, before making any decisions about their studies at the College.

GRADUATE STUDIES MISSION

Consistent with the mission of Peirce College, the Graduate Studies mission is to provide quality graduate programs for non-traditional college students of all ages and backgrounds, and to develop professionals into competent and ethical leaders.

Peirce College Graduate Studies programs are designed for non-traditional students who have earned bachelor's degrees and desire to further their education at the graduate level. Classes are offered to accommodate work schedules and are held at the main campus, online, or off-site. The Graduate Studies programs allow students to continue full-time employment while pursuing a graduate degree. The Graduate Studies programs are comprised of rigorous, accelerated courses in which graduate students have the opportunity to learn and develop, both personally and professionally, through extensive study, coursework, and interaction with faculty members and student peers. Graduate Studies programs culminate in an applied research project known as the Capstone.

GRADUATE STUDIES LEARNING OUTCOMES

A Peirce College graduate will be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced discipline-specific knowledge through the application of theory.
2. Synthesize primary and secondary research into coherent written documents.
3. Plan, conduct, and present the results of applied and action research.
4. Apply discipline specific ethical principles and engage in decision making in solving ethical dilemmas.
5. Interpret and apply perspectives of diverse groups.
6. Self-assess and apply leadership skills to the discipline.

GRADUATE STUDIES PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Peirce College, building upon a tradition since 1865 of making the benefits of higher education accessible and attainable to non-traditional students of all ages and backgrounds, is dedicated to providing our graduate students an education that brings together practical experience, theoretical foundations, and intellectual rigor in a highly professional, career-focused academic environment. The graduate faculty, who are specialists in their field, work closely with students, guiding them through applied research throughout graduate programs that will not only broaden and deepen students' knowledge and skills but will also enrich their personal and professional lives.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Graduate students desiring academic support and consultation should schedule an appointment to meet with their Graduate Studies Advisor and/or faculty teaching the graduate course. Writing support and support with statistical analysis pertaining to graduate-level research is available through the College's online tutoring provider.

The Peirce College Library maintains a robust digital library comprising books, periodicals, and reference works. All materials are accessible electronically, and librarians are available to assist graduate students

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with reference and citation questions. For more information, visit the Library's webpage at <http://library.peirce.edu>.

BOOKSTORE

Peirce College uses an online bookstore called eCampus. The bookstore can be accessed at www.ecampus.com/peirce. You can find the instructions to order your books using financial aid on the my.peirce.edu portal under Financial Aid Links.

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Center for Career & Professional Development

A career counseling session is a vital component of the academic experience and is strongly encouraged when students enroll. Through career planning, developing job search strategy, resume revision and interviewing skills, students can leverage their past work experience and academic proficiency for career success. By meeting with a member of the Career Center team, students learn about career-based tools, services, and resources that can support them in converting classroom experience into career progression. Career-related information can also be found on the web portal at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the Student Services tab and through Canvas at peirce.edu/goCareer.

Peirce College's Center for Career & Professional Development offers individualized guidance and support for career exploration, development, and access. Students receive assistance with career-based needs including resume and cover letter writing, mock interviews, graduate school applications, salary negotiations, and effective job searching. The Career Center also presents events and activities that facilitate professional growth throughout students' careers; programs cover topics ranging from networking and professional presentations to business etiquette, and management tactics for new leaders. For those seeking career opportunities, the Career Center hosts an annual career fair and maintains an online job board, Handshake (hire.peirce.edu), to connect students and alumni with job and internship opportunities. Finally, for students who are undecided about their career path, the Center for Career & Professional Development administers career interest inventories and provides one-on-one counseling appointments to help students clearly understand and align their career values and goals.

The Career Center provides all programs and services at no cost to students and alumni. Students who are seeking full-time or part-time employment, internships, or cooperative education opportunities, as well as those interested in continuing their education beyond a bachelor's degree are encouraged to meet with counselors to explore programs, identify potential resources, and develop action plans. Both students and alumni should contact the Career Center to set up appointments and to find out about available workshops and programs. The Career Center team be reached at 215-670-9202 or careercenter@peirce.edu.

COURSE DELIVERY OPTIONS

Peirce provides practical, high quality degree programs where most courses are taught in an accelerated format. Three-credit courses are 8 or 15 weeks in length in the fall and spring terms and 7 or 14 weeks in length in the summer term. Courses are offered in three interchangeable formats: On campus in Center City, Philadelphia, PA; on site at company and community locations throughout the region; and online through distance learning. Hybrid courses include a blend of on campus/on site learning and virtual learning. Students should refer to their course syllabus for a detailed description of the course learning requirements. All formats use the same professors and curricula, and promote the same learning outcomes. Regardless of the delivery format, all courses include 45 hours of direct faculty instruction and 90 hours of out of class work.

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ON CAMPUS AND ON SITE CLASSES

Classes that meet on campus or on site typically meet once per week for four hours. In accordance with the federal definition of credit hour, a three-credit course represents the equivalent of 45 hours of direct faculty instruction and 90 hours of out of class student work. Direct faculty instruction is instruction led by faculty teaching a course. Out of class student work is all work a student completes on his or her own, which includes preparatory work for class.

ONLINE CLASSES

Online classes are designed to include 45 hours of direct faculty instruction and 90 hours of out of class student work where all class work is completed online. Students will have deadlines throughout the course that they are expected to meet, usually on a weekly basis. Although delivered asynchronously, online courses are each supplemented with a minimum of 90 minutes per week of live, instructor-led classes offered via Zoom. For technology requirements, please refer to the Computer/Internet Requirements for Students policy, which appears in Admissions Information.

For additional information, please visit our website at <http://www.peirce.edu> or contact the Admissions Office at 888-467-3472, extension 9000.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB) AND HUMAN SUBJECTS POLICY (HSP)

Introduction and Statement of Ethical Principles

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Peirce College reviews all research projects involving human subjects conducted by individuals affiliated with Peirce College (including graduate students and graduate faculty) to confirm that subjects' rights, privacy, welfare, and civil liberties are protected. Graduate students completing a capstone project as part of their program of graduate studies at Peirce College are **required** to obtain the approval of both their Capstone committee as well as the Peirce College Institutional Review Board prior to commencing research including data collection. Failure to follow these guidelines and procedures, especially but not limited to prior to the collection of data, can result in grounds for academic dismissal from the graduate program at Peirce College. Graduate students at the College are strongly advised to keep in close communication with the Capstone committee chairperson to ensure that all applicable guidelines outlined herein are strictly adhered to.

The IRB is responsible for adhering to Federal Government regulations (45CFR46 (PDF)) for determining whether research protocols qualify for exemption to this document. The IRB does not evaluate the study's design or evaluate its potential contributions.

The intent of IRB and HSP is to safeguard the rights and welfare of human subjects (by elimination or reduction of research-related risks and ensure the voluntary participation by subjects), and to ensure Peirce College is in compliance with the Federal Rules (45CFR46) promulgated under Title 45 Part 46 of the **Code for Federal Regulations**. Peirce is further guided by the ethical principles regarding all research involving humans as subjects as set forth in the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research entitled: ***The Belmont Report Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research***.

Scope of the IRB

ALL research involving human subjects, including research training, must be reviewed and approved by the College's IRB before any human research can begin. The IRB has full authority to approve, require modifications, or disapprove all research activities that fall within its jurisdiction.

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There are three types of review classifications (criteria for each are specified by the Department of Health and Human Services):

1. Exempt from further review – does not mean that the research project is exempt from IRB review; rather it is a classification assigned by the IRB after its review of the protocol to indicate that the project is exempt from further review as long as there are no modifications in the procedures.
2. Expedited review – includes but is not limited to research that presents no more than a minimal risk to human subjects and is inclusive of the forms of research (subject to the conditions outlined) located at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/expedited98.html>.
3. Full IRB review – for all other forms of research proposed that does not otherwise qualify for exemption from further review or expedited review.

Application Elements

Full application policies, procedures, and forms are available for both students and faculty.

The IRB review process focuses on the following elements:

1. Risk: Are the procedures and subjects' participation adequately described? Do the study's procedures place the subject at risk in any form? Are the risks fully described? Is the risk minimal or reasonable, as defined by the policy? Are the procedures adequate to minimize any risk?
2. Benefit: if there are potential risks, should the knowledge for the research be pursued? Do the benefits outweigh the risks? Have the benefits to the subject and/or society been described?
3. Informed Consent: are the subjects provided with sufficient detail in the consent form to assure voluntary and informed consent? Are participants notified that they can withdraw at any time? Are the participants informed about their recourse in the event of injury? Are the participants provided with a name and phone number or a person to call with any questions or problems? Is there any indication of coercion or undue influence?
4. Confidentiality/anonymity: is the selection of participants/subjects fully explained? If the subjects are anonymous, how is anonymity ensured? Are the procedures sufficient to allow for confidentiality of information about individual subject, in both gathering and disseminating information? Are security measures adequately described? The procedures must be specific; a statement to the effect that "confidentiality will be maintained" is not sufficient.
5. Special or vulnerable populations: are vulnerable populations involved? If so, have particular and appropriate steps been taken to assure they or their legal guardians understand what is going to happen, their participation is voluntary, legal consent has been obtained, etc.? Is selection of subjects equitable?

Application procedures for IRB review of proposed student and faculty research are available in a separate policy document through the Dean, Graduate Studies.

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

All master's degree students are expected to complete a graduate-level capstone research project. In order to complete the capstone research project, the student will enroll in the graduate capstone course as designated by the program. While students are expected to complete the capstone research project by the conclusion of enrollment in the graduate capstone course at the end of the graduate program, one (1) 14-week extension to the course may be granted upon request to the Dean, Graduate Studies, and registration in the appropriate capstone continuation course. Contact the Dean, Graduate Studies, for policy documents and requirements for completing the capstone research project. Strict adherence to rules for deadlines, application for graduation and satisfactory completion of the capstone research project must be observed.

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Graduate students are expected to employ reflective learning practices through retrospective deliberation and action-based research efforts. Capstone research projects conceived and created in collaboration with peers serve as impetus for ongoing and future research and signify points on a learning lifestyle continuum. Graduate students are required to take personal responsibility for their learning and, thus, act more like co-learners and co-investigators in the learning and research processes. Rather than act as passive recipients in their own educational processes, students will initiate scholarly activity beyond that prescribed in the course.

Master's degree students will design their capstone research project with the help of graduate faculty and advisors, conduct the necessary background literature search and research, analyze the results, write the capstone, and communicate results in an oral presentation to the College community. Scholarship and research are themes embedded throughout the graduate programs at Peirce College, and students are encouraged to begin work with the capstone research project early in their enrollment through the graduate coursework offerings.

Students are expected to demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills as expected at the graduate level and in alignment with appropriate graduate level research and writing academic standards including the standards and guidelines espoused by the American Psychological Association (APA) or other academic standards guidelines as promulgated by the College. With guidance of the faculty and advisors, the research study, writing, and reporting will be designed to be completed in a manageable timeframe.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

In compliance with relevant federal, state, and local laws, the College does not unlawfully discriminate in its admissions decisions on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran's status, military status, or membership in any other group protected under local, state, or federal law.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

To apply for admission into a Peirce College Graduate Studies program, applicants must submit the following documents to the Dean, Graduate Studies:

- Completed application document with the nonrefundable application fee.
- Current resume.
- Statement of intent or career objective in a one to two-page essay format. The statement should discuss the applicant's professional and personal goals and why completing a graduate degree in the desired field at Peirce College will help meet these goals. The statement should also discuss how the applicant's academic and professional backgrounds have resulted in preparation for graduate study.
- Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended indicating completion of an undergraduate degree or higher from an accredited institution recognized by CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation) or the USDOE (United States Department of Education).

Applicants are expected to have achieved a 2.75 or higher cumulative Grade Point Average at the undergraduate level or a 3.0 or higher cumulative Grade Point Average at the graduate level inclusive of 9 graduate credits completed.

Applicants who have not achieved a 2.75 or higher cumulative Grade Point Average at the undergraduate level or a 3.0 or higher cumulative Grade Point Average at the graduate level inclusive of 9 graduate credits completed are required to submit one completed recommendation form from the applicant's professor, supervisor, or professional colleague.

Applicants who have not achieved these GPA benchmarks may submit examination results from the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) or GMAT (Graduate Admissions Management Test).

Applicants who do not meet the GPA benchmark or for whom components of the application require further investigation will be required to complete an interview with the Dean, Graduate Studies, or his/her designee in order to provide the Graduate Admissions Committee with further background information regarding the applicant's potential for academic success in the program.

MSHCA ADMISSIONS POLICY

In addition to the stated requirements for admission to a Peirce College Graduate Studies program, applicants for admission to the Master of Science in Healthcare Administration (MSHCA) degree must present evidence of completion of an undergraduate or higher degree in a healthcare field (healthcare administration, nursing, medicine, etc.) or an undergraduate concentration / certificate/ minor in a healthcare field or evidence of three years or more experience working in a healthcare field (as evidenced by completed recommendation forms and resume). Applicants for admission to the MSHCA program who have not met this requirement will be considered on an individual basis for conditional acceptance to the program and may be required to complete undergraduate preparatory courses in healthcare at Peirce College as a prerequisite for admission.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

COMPUTER / INTERNET REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to own or have access to a personal computer with Internet access. Students who do not own a personal computer and are using a computer such as one at the College or at work are responsible for ensuring that they have access to a computer at a time when work can be completed and must have rights to download and install software, as needed, for classes.

To support students in meeting this requirement, Peirce offers the option of purchasing a new Windows base notebook/Laptop. Students eligible for financial aid and who have unexpended funds can use those funds toward the purchase of a laptop computer. Students who do not have financial aid and/or are not receiving a refund can work with Student Financial Services to make payment arrangements toward the purchase of a laptop computer.

Microsoft Office

Peirce provides every student a free one-time downloadable copy of the Microsoft Office software suite, for either Apple Mac or Windows. There are several classes that require the Windows version of Office to be used.

APPLE Mac

Peirce provides every student a free one-time downloadable copy of Microsoft Office for Apple Mac. All students should expect on occasion to need in their classes the ability to run Windows-based software. Apple Mac users have the option of using virtualization options like Parallels or VirtualBox to run Windows. Note: These virtualization options are for experienced user of MAC. The Apple Store can provide support if needed.

Students who have questions before making any computer purchase may contact the Information Technology department at 215-670-9400 or email servicecenter@peirce.edu.

BACHELOR'S TO MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Bachelor's to Master's programs enable you to take up to four graduate courses as you finish your bachelor's degree and have those courses count toward both degrees.

Bachelor's to Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Open to students in the following programs: BS in Accounting, BS in Business Administration, BS in Criminal Justice Studies, BS in Human Resource Management, BS in Human Services Leadership, BS in Information Technology, BA in Liberal Studies, BS in Organizational Leadership and Management, BS in Paralegal Studies and BS in Technology Management.

Bachelor's to MS in Organizational Leadership & Management

Open to students in the following programs: BS in Accounting, BS in Business Administration, BS in Criminal Justice Studies, BS in Human Resource Management, BS in Human Services Leadership, BS in Information Technology, BA in Liberal Studies, BS in Organizational Leadership and Management, BS in Paralegal Studies and BS in Technology Management.

Bachelor's to MS in Healthcare Administration

Open to students in the following programs: BS in Health Information Administration, BS in Healthcare Administration, BS in Human Services Leadership and BS in Public Health Administration.

Bachelor's to MS in Higher Education Leadership

Open to students in the following programs: BS in Business Administration, BA in Liberal Studies and BS in Organizational Leadership and Management.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Interested students may apply to these programs as new undergraduates. Students who are admitted to these programs as undergraduate students will take twelve credits of graduate courses while enrolled as undergraduate students paying the undergraduate tuition rate, and will have these courses applied towards both the undergraduate degree and the graduate degree. Degree program tracks are provided for each dual-degree program specifying which graduate courses are applicable and when they are to be taken.

Students must have completed at least 90 credits including ENG 103 with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher to begin enrollment in the designated graduate courses. Upon completion of the undergraduate degree with a GPA of 2.75 or higher, students will then be automatically matriculated into the accompanying graduate degree program.

PROGRAM TRANSFER POLICY / SECOND MASTER'S DEGREE POLICY

Students who have completed a Master's degree at Peirce College may be eligible to complete a second Master's degree at Peirce College, subject to the following conditions:

- Interested students will need to complete the applicable admissions process
- Admitted students will be able to apply up to six (6) credits of prior Peirce College graduate coursework applicable to the new degree program so long as:
 - The original course was completed with a grade of "B" or higher
 - The original course was completed within 5 years of the date of application to the new degree program
 - Courses to be counted under this policy may not include Practicum or Capstone courses
- Students will not be permitted to earn a second Master's degree in the same discipline, i.e. a second graduate degree in Organizational Leadership and Management or a second graduate degree in Higher Education Leadership.
- Students will not be permitted to pursue a third Master's degree at Peirce College after having completed two Master's degrees at Peirce College.

Students who have completed a Graduate Certificate in a given discipline at Peirce College who wish to enroll in a Master's degree program in the same discipline or with a concentration in the same discipline at Peirce College will have full credit for their Graduate Certificate granted towards the Master's degree program for all Graduate Certificate courses completed with a grade of "B" or higher within 6 years of the date of enrollment in the new degree program.

Students who have completed a Graduate Certificate at Peirce College or who have completed a Master's degree at Peirce College are permitted to complete additional Graduate Certificate programs at Peirce College subject to the guidelines outlined in this policy.

Students pursuing multiple Graduate degrees or Certificates at Peirce College are encouraged to consult with Student Financial Services regarding Financial Aid eligibility.

READMISSION

Accepted students who have not enrolled in a Peirce College graduate course for one calendar year are placed on inactive status. Students on inactive status may apply for readmission by completing a written request to the Dean, Graduate Studies, along with payment of the application fee. The Graduate Admissions Committee will review the application and determine in their sole discretion whether readmission is appropriate.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Students readmitted must meet all current Peirce College entrance requirements (includes students who applied and never enrolled in classes). Each readmitted student will confer with a faculty advisor to discuss the student's academic schedule. The student will return to the College under the most current degree program requirements and College policies regardless of the date of original admission. Students who were academically dismissed are ineligible for readmission for a period of two calendar years following dismissal and will need to reapply for admission.

Readmission is not automatic and subject to additional conditions set by the Dean, Graduate Studies.

TRANSFER CREDIT AND CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING CRITERIA

The College reserves the right, in its sole discretion through the authority of the Dean, Graduate Studies, to allow graduate students to transfer up to nine (9) credits toward the 30-credit master's degree programs and up to twelve (12) credits for 36-credit master's degree programs. Of these designated credits, students can pursue six (6) credits through prior learning assessment-portfolio submission. A maximum of 6 credits can be transferred toward a Graduate Certificate program. All credit for prior learning opportunities must be approved by the Dean, Graduate Studies.

Applicants who have earned credits through previous graduate study at another college or university may transfer credit under certain circumstances. The following conditions are the minimum requirements for acceptance of transfer credit:

1. The credits must have been earned at an accredited college or university recognized by CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation) or the USDOE (United States Department of Education).
2. The courses taken must be approved by the department or program in which the applicant intends to enroll at Peirce College and by the Dean, Graduate Studies.
3. The course is equivalent to at least three Peirce College credits.
4. The grade earned for courses to be transferred must be B or above.
5. An official transcript and a course catalog description or syllabus along with a written request for transfer credit must be submitted to the Dean, Graduate Studies, within 60 days of the admissions decision. Transcripts must be sent directly to the Dean, Graduate Studies, by the institution that granted the credits, and they must clearly indicate that the courses to be transferred are graduate courses for which graduate credit was given.
6. The course(s) transferred must have been taken within 5 (five) years of the date of matriculation into the Peirce College graduate program.
7. The earned grade for the transfer course will not be included in the calculation of the Peirce College Graduate GPA.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MBA (Master of Business Administration) program is a 30-credit program preparing students for strategic leadership positions by building expertise in common business areas.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate and apply strategic leadership skills to promote organizational change.
2. Demonstrate ethical and analytical data-driven decision-making practices to implement strategy.
3. Demonstrate and apply strategic organizational development practices.

Master of Business Administration 2025-26 Curriculum

To enroll in this degree program: 1) students must be admitted to the MBA; 2) students without an undergraduate degree in business or accounting are required to complete an additional 6-credit Fundamentals of Business Administration course (BUS 500) and earn a grade of B or above.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OLM 501	Foundations of Contemporary Leadership – Theory & Practice	B or above	3
OLM 521	Ethical Decision Making		3
BUS 610	Principles of Managerial Accounting and Financial Analysis		6
BUS 630	Marketing and Communication Strategy		6
OPM 540	Data Analytics		6
BUS 640	Strategic Leadership in Business Practicum	Must be taken in final term of program; may be taken concurrently with another course. B or above	6
MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENT CREDITS:			30

MBA ACADEMIC TRACKS	
Operations Management (6 Credits – choose one of the following courses) • OPM 520 Supply Chain Management OR • OPM 560 IT Leadership	Healthcare Administration (6 credits) • HCA 501 Introduction to Healthcare Administration: History, Economics, and Theory • Choose one of the following courses: ○ HCA 520 Healthcare Informatics OR ○ HCA 530 Healthcare Law and Compliance OR ○ HCA 550 Management and Insurance in Healthcare

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In the Healthcare Administration (MSHCA) program, our primary goal is to prepare healthcare practitioners for leadership roles in various sectors of the industry. Students will utilize a variety of skills to implement an organizational improvement and change initiative within a healthcare organization and will conduct action research on best practices in healthcare administration.

HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Develop and execute strategies for building effective, efficient, and safe administrative practices for quality healthcare delivery and services.
2. Define, assess, and evaluate the impact of change and challenges associated with the mandates related to the Affordable Care and Meaningful Use of Technology Acts and other applicable legislation.
3. Conduct and present health related research in a clear and practical manner.
4. Drive and champion change, innovation, and adaptability by applying effective leadership practices and theory when addressing organizational challenges in healthcare organizations.
5. Apply the dynamics associated with fostering a culture of responsive leadership that promotes empowerment, teamwork, and accountability in managing staff in a healthcare environment.
6. Manage, evaluate, and improve healthcare systems, technology initiatives, and processes.

Master of Science in Healthcare Administration 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS				
Requirement		Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OLM 501	Foundations of Contemporary Leadership - Theory & Practice		B or above	3
OLM 503	Applied Research Methods	OLM 501 must be completed or concurrently enrolled	B or above	3
HCA 501	Introduction to Healthcare Administration: History, Economics and Theory		B or above	3
OLM 521	Ethical Decision Making	OLM 501		3
HCA 520	Healthcare Informatics and Information Technology	OLM 501, HCA 501		3
HCA 530	Healthcare Law and Compliance	OLM 501, HCA 501		3
HCA 550	Risk Management and Insurance in Healthcare	OLM 501, HCA 501		3
OLM 540	Business and Professional Communication	OLM 501, HCA 501		3
OLM 570	Strategic Management and Finance	OLM 501, HCA 501		3
OLM 590	Management Capstone	All required coursework must be completed or concurrently enrolled	B or above	3
MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENT CREDITS:				30

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Higher Education Leadership program prepares students who seek advancement into leadership positions in higher education, including but not limited to admissions, assessment, advancement, faculty development, and student services. Students will utilize their research, analytical, presentation, and leadership skills in a culminating applied Practicum and Capstone experience. The program has a core foundation in broad leadership and management theories and has an applied focus on leadership areas in varied areas of higher education including a student-designated Focus Area of Study. The program is designed for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree in any area of study and who desire to advance to leadership roles in higher education. The program consists of 30 credits and can be completed in two years.

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Synthesize and apply current leadership trends in Higher Education
2. Develop and apply an assessment and learning framework
3. Integrate current themes in Social Justice into Higher Education leadership roles
4. Apply best practices in leadership and research into Higher Education leadership roles

Master of Science in Higher Education Leadership 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS				
Requirement		Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OLM 501	Foundations of Contemporary Leadership - Theory & Practice		B or above	3
OLM 503	Applied Research Methods	OLM 501 must be completed or concurrently enrolled	B or above	3
OHL 510	Theories of Adult and Non-Traditional Education			3
OHL 520	Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in Higher Education			3
OHL 530	Assessment, Accreditation, and Compliance in Higher Education			3
OHL 540	Developing Trends in Higher Education			3
ELE	Elective Courses <i>Students will select an approved academic track to fulfill elective requirements. See tracks on next page.</i>			6
OHL 590	Practicum/Capstone in Higher Education Leadership			6
MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENT CREDITS:				30

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Master of Science in Higher Education Leadership 2025-26 Curriculum (continued)

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMIC TRACKS	
Data Analytics OPM 540 Data Analytics	Development and Philanthropy ONL 520 Development and Philanthropy
Enrollment Management and Student Services - OHL 550 Enrollment Management - OHL 560 Student Services Leadership	Instructional Technology and Online Learning - OHL 570 Instructional Technology for Non-traditional Learning Environments - OHL 580 Online Teaching and Learning
Organizational Leadership (Choose 2) - OLM 511 Systems Dynamics and Change - OLM 521 Ethical Decision Making - OLM 523 Transcendent Leadership - OLM 531 Leading Culturally & Generationally Diverse Populations - OLM 540 Business and Professional Communication - OLM 550 Strategic Human Resource Management - OLM 560 Developing Systems Literacy - OLM 570 Strategic Management and Finance - OLM 580 Leading Project Management Strategy	

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Professional Studies program provides a customizable graduate degree program for those looking to advance into leadership positions in specified areas. Students in the program will complete a 30-credit course of study including a leadership core, an individualized professional studies core, and a research core OR advisor-guided electives.

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Apply best practices in leadership to their career field.
2. Integrate ethical practices in professional settings.
3. Develop and communicate an individual leadership style and vision.

Master of Science in Professional Studies 2025-26 Curriculum

This program consists of three sections;

- **Leadership Core:** 4 courses/12 credits listed below
- **Professional Studies Core:** 4 courses/12 credits approved by the Graduate Faculty Advisor
- **Research Core:** 2 courses/6 credits listed below **OR** 6 credits **Guided Electives** approved by the Graduate Faculty Advisor

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OLM 501	Foundations of Contemporary Leadership: Theory and Practice	B or above	3
OLM 521	Ethical Decision Making		3
OLM 531	Leading Culturally and Generationally Diverse Populations		3
OLM 540	Business and Professional Communication		3
	Professional Studies Core (chosen with advisor)		12
	Research Core (OLM and OLM 590) – or- Guided Electives		6
MINIMUM INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT CREDITS:			30

Area of Study combinations from within existing graduate courses include:

- **Healthcare Administration and Operations Management**
- **Higher Education Leadership and Nonprofit Leadership**
- **Public Health Administration and Healthcare Administration**

Areas of Study and course sequencing will be developed collaboratively with the student and the Graduate Faculty Advisor. Final approval of proposed Areas of Study courses will be determined by the Dean, Graduate Studies.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In the Organizational Leadership and Management (MSOLM) program, our primary goal is to prepare students for successful, rewarding careers in organizational change, consultation, management, and leadership. Students will utilize their analytical and diagnostic skills by implementing, planning, and improving processes for institutional, team, and individual development in their final project.

Students may choose among the following MSOLM program options:

- Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management - General Program
- Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management - Concentration in Nonprofit Leadership
- Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management - Concentration in Operations Management

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Evaluate the impact of leadership and ethical decision making on organizational culture.
2. Identify the systematic and strategic dynamics affecting the organization such as the needs and perspectives of relevant stakeholders.
3. Predict the impact of change and future challenges on an organization's core business.
4. Develop strategies for deploying human resource capital, including cultural diversity and multiple generations.
5. Apply methods of facilitating change through process consultation, team building, conflict resolution, and large group intervention.
6. Differentiate between modern organizational structural models and their impact on leadership style and organizational productivity.
7. Apply systems thinking and theory to organizational challenges.
8. Evaluate and redesign organizational structures, work processes, and governance.
9. Demonstrate competency in reading and conducting research in organizations.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS				
Requirement		Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OLM 501	Foundations of Contemporary Leadership - Theory & Practice		B or above	3
OLM 503	Applied Research Methods	OLM 501 must be completed or concurrently enrolled	B or above	3
OLM 521	Ethical Decision Making	OLM 501		3
OLM 531	Leading Culturally & Generationally Diverse Populations	OLM 501		3
OLM 540	Business and Professional Communication	OLM 501		3
OLM 550	Strategic Human Resource Management	OLM 501		3
OLM 560	Developing Systems Literacy	OLM 501		3
OLM 570	Strategic Management and Finance	OLM 501		3
OLM 580	Leadership Project Management Strategy	OLM 501		3
OLM 590	Management Capstone	All required coursework must be completed or concurrently enrolled	B or above	3
MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENT CREDITS:				30

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT WITH A CONCENTRATION IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management (MSOLM) program with a Concentration in Nonprofit Leadership is to prepare students for leadership roles in both nonprofit and public organizations— including a focus on governance, philanthropy, operations, finance, and labor relations. Students will utilize their research, analytical, presentation, and leadership skills in a culminating applied Practicum and Capstone experience. The program offers a core foundation in broad leadership and management theories with an applied focus on leadership areas necessary for success in nonprofit and public organizations. The program is designed for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree in any area of study and who desire to advance to leadership roles in nonprofit and/or public organizations. The program consists of 36 credits and can be completed in two years.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT WITH A CONCENTRATION IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Identify the systematic and strategic dynamics affecting an organization such as the needs and perspectives of relevant stakeholders.
2. Analyze the impact of change and future challenges on an organization's core business.
3. Apply principles of Leadership to nonprofit and public organizational settings in the areas of:
 - a. Governance
 - b. Finance
 - c. Operations
 - d. Philanthropy
 - e. Labor relations
4. Apply systems thinking and theory to organizational challenges.
5. Evaluate and redesign organizational structures, work processes, and governance.

Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management with a Concentration in Nonprofit Leadership 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS				
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits	
OLM 501	Foundations of Contemporary Leadership - Theory & Practice	B or above	3	
OLM 503	Applied Research Methods	OLM 501 must be completed or concurrently enrolled	B or above	3
OLM 521	Ethical Decision Making	OLM 501	3	
OLM 531	Leading Culturally and Generationally Diverse Populations		3	
ONL 520	Development and Philanthropy		6	
ONL 540	Nonprofit Finance and Operations		6	
ONL 560	Nonprofit Governance and Leadership		6	
ONL 590	Practicum and Capstone in Nonprofit Leadership	ONL 520, ONL 540, ONL 560	B or above	6
MINIMUM INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT CREDITS:				36

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT WITH A CONCENTRATION IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management (MSOLM) program with a Concentration in Operations Management is to prepare students for leadership roles in a variety of organizations in the roles of Operations Management – including a focus on Supply Chain Management, Logistics, Data Analytics, and Information Technology Leadership. Students will utilize their research, analytical, presentation, and leadership skills in a culminating applied Practicum and Capstone experience. The program is designed for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree in any area of study and who desire to advance to operations management leadership roles in any organization.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT WITH A CONCENTRATION IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Identify the systematic and strategic dynamics affecting an organization such as the needs and perspectives of relevant stakeholders.
2. Predict the impact of change and future challenges on an organization's core business.
3. Apply principles of Operations Management to an organizational setting in the areas of:
 - a. Supply Chain Management
 - b. Logistics
 - c. Data Analytics
 - d. Information Technology Management
4. Apply systems thinking and theory to organizational challenges.
5. Evaluate and redesign organizational structures, work processes, and governance.
6. Conduct applied research in Operations Management in organizational settings.

Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Management with a Concentration in Operations Management 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OLM 501	Foundations of Contemporary Leadership - Theory & Practice	B or above	3
OLM 503	Applied Research Methods	OLM 501 must be completed or concurrently enrolled	B or above
OLM 560	Systems Dynamics and Change or Developing Systems Literacy	OLM 501	3
OLM 580	Leading Project Management Strategy	OLM 501	3
OPM 520	Supply Chain Management & Logistics		6
OPM 540	Data Analytics		6
OPM 560	Information Technology Leadership		6
OPM 590	Practicum and Capstone in Operations Management	OPM 520, OPM 540, OPM 560	B or above
MINIMUM INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT CREDITS:			36

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Leadership program is to prepare students for positions of responsibility in higher education settings with an applied focus on technical areas. The program is designed for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree in any area of study and who desire to advance to roles in higher education institutions. The program consists of 12 credits and can be completed in one year.

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Synthesize and apply current leadership trends in Higher Education
2. Develop and apply an assessment and learning framework
3. Integrate current themes in Social Justice into Higher Education leadership roles

Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Leadership 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OHL 510	Theories of Adult and Non-Traditional Education		3
OHL 520	Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in Higher Education		3
OHL 530	Assessment, Accreditation, and Compliance in Higher Education		3
OHL 540	Developing Trends in Higher Education		3
MINIMUM INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT CREDITS:			12

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership is currently not accepting new enrollments/applications. Please check back for further updates.

The Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership program prepares students for technical roles in both nonprofit and public organizations– including a focus on governance, philanthropy, operations, finance, and labor relations. The program is designed for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree in any area of study and who desire to advance to technical roles in nonprofit and/or public organizations.

NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Apply principles of Leadership to nonprofit and public organizational settings in the areas of:
 - a. Governance
 - b. Finance
 - c. Operations
 - d. Philanthropy
 - e. Labor relations

Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
ONL 520	Development and Philanthropy		6
ONL 540	Nonprofit Finance and Operations		6
ONL 560	Nonprofit Governance and Leadership		6
MINIMUM INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT CREDITS:			18

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Graduate Certificate in Operations Management is currently not accepting new enrollments/ applications. Please check back for further updates.

The Graduate Certificate program in Operations Management will prepare students for applied roles in a variety of organizations in the roles of Operations Management – including a focus on Supply Chain Management, Logistics, Data Analytics, and Information Technology Leadership. The program is designed for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree in a business-related area and who desire to advance to operations management leadership roles in any organization.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Identify the systematic and strategic dynamics affecting an organization such as the needs and perspectives of relevant stakeholders.
2. Apply principles of Leadership to nonprofit and public organizational settings in the areas of:
 - a. Supply Chain Management
 - b. Logistics
 - c. Data Analytics
 - d. Information Technology Management
3. Evaluate and redesign organizational structures, work processes, and governance.

Graduate Certificate in Operations Management 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
OPM 520	Supply Chain Management & Logistics		6
OPM 540	Data Analytics		6
OPM 560	Information Technology Leadership		6
MINIMUM INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT CREDITS:			18

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health Administration is currently not accepting new enrollments/applications. Please check back for further updates.

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health Administration provides graduate-level professional development for those who seek entry into leadership positions in the Public Health field. Students explore topics related to leadership, healthcare administration, and public health administration and have the opportunity to choose an elective course suited to their individual career interests.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

1. Apply principles of leadership in Public Health facilities, organizations, and roles.
2. Advocate for Public Leadership roles and responsibilities in diverse organizations.
3. Manage, evaluate, and improve Public Health systems and processes.

Graduate Certificate in Public Health Administration 2025-26 Curriculum

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
Requirement	Prerequisites	Grade	Min. Credits
HCA 501	Introduction to Healthcare Administration: History, Economics, and Theory	B or above	3
HCA 520	Healthcare Informatics and Information Technology		3
HCA 560	Community Health		3
HCA 570	Epidemiology		3
HCA 575	Public Health Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy		3
HCA Elective	Elective (choose 1 from HCA 510, HCA 530, HCA 540, HCA 550)		3
MINIMUM INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT CREDITS:			18

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Graduate Student Orientation (GSS)

GSS 500

Graduate Success Seminar

This is a Pass/Fail course. A grade of Pass is required for this course.

This one-credit course provides graduate students with an overview of topics that are essential to student success. Course topics include APA formatting and style, graduate-level scholarly writing and academic expectations, time management, navigating flexible delivery, and the services and opportunities provided by the Graduate Student Association.

Business Administration (BUS)

BUS 500

Fundamentals of Business Administration

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisites: Admission to MBA program; BUS 500 is required for students without an undergraduate degree in business.

This course reviews fundamentals of Business Administration concepts for incoming MBA students; topics include Accounting, Finance, Economics, Marketing, Management, Leadership, and other related themes.

BUS 610

Principles of Managerial Accounting and Financial Analysis

Prerequisite: Admission to MBA program.

This course presents management accounting and financial analysis from a strategic perspective – specifically, the collection, presentation and analysis of cost and finance data to help management deal with strategic and operational planning and decision making. By focusing on concepts, analyses, uses and procedures, the course shows the strategic role of managerial accounting and financial analysis as tools for business strategy, implementation and performance evaluation.

BUS 630

Marketing and Communication Strategy

Prerequisite: Admission to MBA program.

This course presents an overview of applied marketing strategy development and implementation, including use of appropriate modern communications channels.

BUS 640

Strategic Leadership in Business Practicum

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisites: Must be taken in final term of program; may be taken concurrently with another course.

This course serves as a capstone and practicum course in the MBA program in which students will engage in a series of applied strategic leadership exercises.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Healthcare Administration (HCA)

HCA 501

Introduction to Healthcare Administration: History, Economics, and Theory

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

This course provides a review of healthcare organizations and enables students to develop an understanding of the history of the US healthcare system. Topics include the evolution of healthcare delivery and theory during a time of economic, financial, and regulatory challenges with emphasis on political and social forces. In response to these influences, the focus of studies includes analysis of the impact of the evolving consumer movement and the various approaches used to maintain efficient and effective organizational structures.

HCA 510

Ethics in Healthcare Administration

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in HCA 501

This course will focus on moral values and principles applicable in complex healthcare organizations. This course is intended to serve as an arena for discussion and inquiry regarding what is good and what is right as related to bioethical and socio-ethical issues both current and historical. Topics and studies in this course are designed to inculcate decision-making skills to assist with designing health services models based on the development of various healthcare organizations' services, theory, mission, and vision.

HCA 520

Healthcare Informatics and Information Technology

Prerequisites: OLM 501 and HCA 501

This course focuses on healthcare information, clinical, financial, and evidence-based systems. The course assists with formulating effective, safe, and strategic directions in the ramifications of ever-evolving electronic health record challenges associated with focus on the meaningful use of technology. Students are expected to research an ineffective technology business scenario and evaluate, compare and weigh vendors for selecting the best-fit technology and implementation process for an e-health application. The course introduces students to the richness of safe, secured, confidential, and effective healthcare technology implementation and application processes.

HCA 530

Healthcare Law and Compliance

Prerequisites: OLM 501 and HCA 501

Contemporary administration requires a thorough understanding of the federal policy and regulatory development process. In this course, students analyze the history and regulatory implications of health financing legislation. This course examines the impact of emerging social, ethical, legal, and political issues on the future of the healthcare system. Emphasis is on the creation of innovative models of health care delivery.

HCA 540

Performance Leadership and Culture in Healthcare

Prerequisites: OLM 501 and HCA 501

This course examines the complexity of managing staff and resources needed to deliver quality healthcare services. The course is a combination of theoretical and practical approaches for performance management. Students are expected to learn how to determine the strengths, vulnerabilities, and

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

opportunities of healthcare services, as well as engage in leadership practices that promote a culture of employee loyalty and longevity within organizations.

HCA 550

Risk Management and Insurance in Healthcare

Prerequisites: OLM 501 and HCA 501

This course provides in-depth studies of quality improvement methodologies, tools, and issues related to healthcare. Students will closely examine the relationship between quality improvement programs, risk management, and principles applicable to healthcare services, designs, roles and responsibilities in the integration of quality improvement and processes with healthcare insurance and risk management.

HCA 560

Community Health

This course examines best practices in leading community health organizations. The course explores advanced concepts in community health and integrated leadership theories and practices.

HCA 570

Epidemiology

This course provides a leadership-based overview of Epidemiology, including statistical forecasting, analysis, and communication from a leadership perspective.

HCA 575

Public Health Leadership, Advocacy, and Policy

This course provides in-depth applied leadership-based studies in Public Health positions, roles, and organizations. Students will engage in an applied hands-on project in a leadership role in Public Health.

HCA 580

Healthcare Practicum

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisites: All prior courses in MSHCA must be completed; may be taken in same term as HCA 590.

This course provides a means to test and exercise the impact of challenges faced in a complex virtual healthcare environment. Students are enabled to apply innovative healthcare practices and ideas to virtual healthcare environments with patient flow. The course will convey ideas of healthcare processes, technology, and system implementation and change enabling students to provide detailed analytics for generating effective, safe, and quality healthcare improvement.

HCA 590

Capstone Project - Healthcare Administration

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisites: All prior courses in MSHCA must be completed; may be taken in same term as HCA 580.

This is the capstone course for the MSHCA degree program. Students will demonstrate comprehension of healthcare practices and theories with respect to leadership, research, planning and process implementation. In conjunction with comprehensive feedback from graduate faculty, students will select a healthcare topic and prepare a research proposal for approval early in the course. Ultimately, students will develop and present a final project demonstrating competence in conducting and presenting healthcare research, theory, or process and technology management at the graduate-level. The final product will subsequently be submitted to the College for final approval.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HCA 599

HCA Capstone/Practicum Continuation

This is a Pass/Fail course. A grade of P is required in this course.

Prerequisite: Instructor and Dean approval

Students in this course will continue conducting research for their HCA Capstone/Practicum course. This is a one-credit course.

Higher Education Leadership (OHL)

OHL 510

Theories of Adult and Non-Traditional Education

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This course reviews pertinent theories in the field of non-traditional and adult education in higher education settings. Students will have the opportunity to apply theory to practice through case studies and presentations aligned with their career interests.

OHL 520

Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in Higher Education

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This course reviews social justice issues and theories as applied to diverse settings in higher education. Students will have the opportunity to engage current thought as applied to practice in promoting Diversity and Inclusion in higher education.

OHL 530

Assessment, Accreditation, and Compliance in Higher Education

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This course reviews the regulatory landscape of higher education, including accreditation, assessment, state legislation, and other compliance and reporting. Students will have the opportunity to apply the course to their practice in the field through the development of proposals and reports.

OHL 540

Developing Trends in Higher Education

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This topical course provides an overview of new and developing trends in higher education leadership, including but not limited to online and distance education, credentialing, competency-based education, and related issues.

OHL 550

Enrollment Management

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This course presents theories and best practices in the field of enrollment management, including recruitment, admissions, advising, and retention. Students will have the opportunity to apply theory to practice via case studies and simulation exercises.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

OHL 560

Student Services Leadership

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This course provides an overview of best practices in the leadership of student services, including student life, advising, student activities programming, career services, and financial aid. Students will have the opportunity to customize course assignments to meet their needs in the field.

OHL 570

Instructional Technology for Non-traditional Learning Environments

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This course provides an overview of learning management systems and technology as applied to online, distance, and competency-based education. Students will also apply the Quality Matters (QM) rubrics in a course development simulation.

OHL 580

Online Teaching and Learning

Prerequisite: A grade of B or above in OLM 501

This course provides an overview of best practices in teaching and learning for adult learners in online environments. Students will apply relevant adult learning theories in designing and delivering instruction in a simulated online learning environment.

OHL 590

Practicum/Capstone in Higher Education Leadership

Prerequisite: All prior courses in program must be completed; may be taken in same term as one other graduate course in program

This graduate-level practicum and capstone course provides students the opportunity to further utilize and apply leadership skills in a higher education setting of their choice (outside of Peirce College). Students will identify a higher education setting (outside of Peirce College) and propose leadership strategies to build upon organizational effectiveness. Students will also demonstrate the ability to conduct graduate-level research, writing, and presentation as applicable to major concepts in the field of Higher Education Leadership as aligned to their focus area of study. Students will develop and present the results of their research, and will also complete and present an electronic portfolio demonstrating competence in the learning outcomes of the MS – Higher Education Leadership program

OHL 599

OHL Capstone/Practicum Continuation

This is a Pass/Fail course. A grade of P is required in this course.

Prerequisite: Instructor and Dean approval

Students in this course will continue conducting research for their OHL Capstone/Practicum course. This is a one-credit course.

Organizational Leadership and Management (OLM)

OLM 501

Foundations of Contemporary Leadership Theory & Practice

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

This course provides the foundational learning of the core concepts and theories in the field of organizational leadership. Students will explore the meta-view of organizations and the structures, human

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

resources, political and cultural dynamics common to all types of organizations. This meta-view will also include sub concepts of multigenerational workgroups, power and authority, the dynamics of teams, and change. The course will also provide a foundation for understanding leadership, using the theories of Kouzes and Posner as well as Daniel Goleman. Leadership styles, changing notions of leadership, followership, and emotional intelligence will be explored through both theory and case studies.

OLM 503

Applied Research Methods

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisite: OLM 501 must be completed or concurrently enrolled.

This course is an introduction to applied research as it relates to organizational leadership. Emphasis will be placed on the analytical problem solving needed to measure and evaluate organizational improvement efforts. Students will learn how to use research as a tool for problem solving and intervention. Included are theories and types of research, analyzing the reliability and validity of published research, and applying research findings to professional practice. Students are encouraged to use a work-based project concept as the basis for their research skill development. This research proposal will serve as the foundation for the applied capstone project.

OLM 511

Systems Dynamics and Change

Prerequisites: OLM 501

This course is grounded in understanding that change is constant in the 21st century, especially in organizations. Willingness to change is intricately linked to motivation. As such, leaders need to have a solid understanding of the dynamics of the change process and individual motivation in order to create effective strategies for the ongoing management of the enterprise. A critical component of managing change is the competency needed to assess large and small system effectiveness. Equally important is the impact of changing systems on the functioning of teams and the roles within teams. This course explores the theory and practice of change, organizational assessment and diagnosis and managing effective teams through case studies and applied projects.

OLM 521

Ethical Decision Making

Prerequisites: OLM 501

This course will compare and contrast various ethical decision making theories and constructs as applied to leadership and organizational decision making. Students will use emerging research and publications to explore how one can be effective and ethical while operating in an organization. Included will be the inter-relationship between personal values, organizational systems, and culture, and how issues of control, power, rank, and privilege impact ethical decision making. Case studies and personal experience will be used to deepen learning and understanding of the challenges in ethical decision making in the 21st century.

OLM 523

Transcendent Leadership

Prerequisites: OLM 501

Current research demonstrates that a combination of emotional, social, and systems intelligence drives performance; in particular, it travels from the leader through the organization to bottom-line results. In order to be effective, a leader needs to develop their leader awareness from the inside out. The most effective leaders have evolved from a focus on self (ego) to the ability to, not only be transformative, but

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

transcendent in their view of the greater purpose to their work. This course builds on material covered in OLM 501 and relates to the leader's self-awareness, self-management, and understanding of their impact on the organization through empathy and ability to effectively manage the relationship system in which they function. Students will develop their own conscious awareness of their leadership and an understanding of managing their deliberate impact on the organization. The course will be grounded in research with practical implication for the ongoing development of the leader within.

OLM 531

Leading Culturally & Generationally Diverse Populations

Prerequisites: OLM 501

In an increasingly complex and fast-changing world, we cannot just rely on charismatic leaders to solve our problems. We need to cultivate leadership at all levels of any organization that can create positive relationships with the multiple generations that currently exist in the workplace and with people representing all cultures, genders, beliefs, races, ages, differentially-abled and sexual orientations. The dynamics of social factors and cultural diversity in organizations will be examined both through theory and case studies, giving students tools to be successful in a global economy. Included will be different leadership styles in different cultures and the implications of working in multinational organizations.

OLM 540

Business and Professional Communication

Prerequisites: OLM 501

This course addresses the new principles of leadership communication in the Information Age. Emphasis is placed on developing competence in verbal and nonverbal communication as well as effective writing principles. Students will explore how to effectively integrate email, text messages, social media and virtual forms of communication and emerging technologies in the professional world. Communications management including techniques for motivation, conflict resolution, mediation and negotiation will be explored.

OLM 550

Strategic Human Resource Management

Prerequisites: OLM 501

Leaders are called upon to strategically consider the level and appropriate deployment of human resource capital needed to fulfill the mission of the organization. This course reviews the latest research in the field that demonstrates how human resource management impacts organizational strategy. Students will explore concepts in human resource development, human performance systems, organizational planning, and team development. Emphasis will be placed on the emerging importance of coaching for both talent and leadership development in today's organizations.

OLM 560

Developing Systems Literacy

Prerequisites: OLM 501

This course provides an overview of the information needs of 21st century organizations, the role information systems play in meeting those needs, and potential for information systems to be a source of competitive advantage and a driver of organizational change. Topics covered include the types of information systems and the component parts, the strategic and operational uses of information systems, the changing role of information systems in organizations and issues in the planning, design, implementation, and management of information systems.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

OLM 570

Strategic Management and Finance

Prerequisites: OLM 501

In a rapidly changing world, leaders are challenged to become more strategic in both their individual leadership and in service of the enterprise. This course focuses on the strategic planning and decision-making processes of organizations, including determining vision, core mission, goal development, implementation, and evaluation. Included in strategy are the financial viability, planning, and monitoring needed to ensure long-term sustainability and success. Students will apply current theory, practice, and research to real world examples of organizations for which they will develop a comprehensive strategic and financial plan that addresses the needs of all stakeholders.

OLM 580

Leading Project Management Strategy

Prerequisites: OLM 501

This course provides the fundamental concepts, processes, and techniques necessary to successfully manage projects in organizations. Students will combine theory and personal experience to explore the fundamental nature of projects and the techniques involved in project management. Concepts such as the definition of a project, the nature of the project team, and the role and function of the project manager are presented. Discussion incorporates the language of projects, the context in which projects are conducted, and the key players in the project management process. Students investigate practical application of project management principles as applied to practice settings. The Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) is introduced as the basis to further explore practices, tools, and techniques for successful project management. Project integration, a coordination function of the project manager requiring effective human resource and communications management, is explored.

OLM 590

Management Capstone

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisites: All required coursework must be completed or concurrently enrolled.

Students will be required to submit a master's project that is a comprehensive document that provides concrete evidence of the integration and practice of organizational leadership, knowledge and skills learned as a result of taking the courses in the program. Students will build on the topic identified early in the program, and in conjunction with graduate faculty will prepare a draft proposal and final project for approval and presentation. The final product will subsequently be submitted to the College for final approval. This course is scheduled for a 14- or 15-week session. The final product will subsequently be submitted to the College for final approval.

OLM 599

OLM Capstone/Practicum Continuation

This is a Pass/Fail course. A grade of P is required in this course.

Prerequisite: Instructor and Dean approval

Students in this course will continue conducting research for their OLM Capstone/Practicum course. This is a one-credit course.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Nonprofit Leadership (ONL)

ONL 520

Development & Philanthropy

This graduate-level course reviews theories and practices in fundraising, foundation development, partnerships, and philanthropy leadership in nonprofit and public organizations. Students will review applicable strategy development and execution along with appropriate software applications. An overview of grant writing will also be provided. Students will complete an applied development and philanthropy project pertaining to a theoretical or actual organizational setting of their choice.

ONL 540

Nonprofit Finance and Operations

This graduate-level course reviews theories, practices, and technology applications relevant to financial and operations management in nonprofit and public organizations. An overview of labor relations practices related to nonprofit and public organizational financial operations will also be provided. Students will have the opportunity to apply these to the preparation of a detailed financial and operations plan in a select nonprofit organization.

ONL 560

Nonprofit Governance and Leadership

This graduate level course reviews leadership theory and practice pertaining to governance and leadership strategies employed in nonprofit and public organizations. Labor relations strategies will be reviewed in context, as well as the functioning of governing boards. Students will propose resolutions to hypothetical and actual governance and leadership issues on nonprofit and public organizations.

ONL 590

Practicum and Capstone in Nonprofit Leadership

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisite: ONL 520, ONL 540, ONL 560.

Recommended: This course should be taken in the final term of enrollment.

This graduate-level practicum and capstone course provides students the opportunity to further utilize and apply nonprofit leadership skills in an organizational setting of their choice. Students will identify an organizational setting and propose leadership strategies to build upon organizational effectiveness. Students will also demonstrate the ability to conduct graduate-level research, writing, and presentation as applicable to major concepts in the field of Nonprofit Leadership, including but not limited to finance, governance, and philanthropy. Students will develop and present the results of their research, and will also complete and present an electronic portfolio demonstrating competence in the learning outcomes of the MSOLM – Nonprofit Leadership program.

ONL 599

ONL Capstone/Practicum Continuation

This is a Pass/Fail course. A grade of P is required in this course.

Prerequisite: Instructor and Dean approval

Students in this course will continue conducting research for their ONL Capstone/Practicum course. This is a one-credit course.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Operations Management (OPM)

OPM 520

Supply Chain Management & Logistics

Recommended: An undergraduate or graduate course in Management.

This graduate-level course reviews theories and practices in Supply Chain Management and Logistics as applied to both service and manufacturing industries. Students will review applicable budgeting, material, logistics, shipping, delivery, and quality control models and will complete an applied project pertaining to a theoretical or actual organizational setting of their choice.

OPM 540

Data Analytics

Recommended: An undergraduate or graduate course in Statistics and working knowledge of MS Excel

This graduate-level course reviews theories, practices, and technology applications relevant to Data Analysis in a variety of industries. Analytical and forecasting models and applications will be reviewed, and students will have the opportunity to apply these to the analysis of a data set to produce strategic recommendations in a leadership capacity.

OPM 560

Information Technology Leadership

Recommended: An undergraduate course in Information Technology

This graduate-level course reviews leadership theory and practice pertaining to Information Technology with a focus on Operations necessary for organizational success. Software applications utilized in the leadership of organizational technology efforts will be reviewed in context, and students will propose the utilization of applications to solve identified organizational problems and opportunities.

OPM 580

Operations Management Practicum

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisite: Completion of OPM 520, OPM 540, and OPM 560

Recommended: This course should be taken after the completion of at least 24 credits in the MSOLM – Operations Management program.

This graduate-level practicum course provides students the opportunity to further utilize and apply operations management leadership skills in an organizational setting of their choice. Students will identify an organizational setting and propose operations management strategies to build upon organizational effectiveness.

OPM 590

Practicum and Capstone in Operations Management

A grade of B or above is required in this course.

Prerequisite: OPM 520, OPM 540, OPM 560

Recommended: This course should be taken in the final term of enrollment.

This graduate-level practicum and capstone course provides students the opportunity to further utilize and apply operations management leadership skills in an organizational setting of their choice. Students will identify an organizational setting and propose operations management strategies to build upon organizational effectiveness. Students will also demonstrate the ability to conduct graduate-level research, writing, and presentation as applicable to major concepts in the field of Operations Management, including but not limited to Supply Chain Management, Logistics, Data Analytics, and/or Information Technology Management. Students will develop and present the results of their research, and

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

will also complete and present an electronic portfolio demonstrating competence in the learning outcomes of the MSOLM – Operations Management program

OPM 599

OPM Capstone/Practicum Continuation

This is a Pass/Fail course. A grade of P is required in this course.

Prerequisite: Instructor and Dean approval

Students in this course will continue conducting research for their OPM Capstone/Practicum course. This is a one-credit course.

GRADUATE FACULTY

CHARLENE GLENN, ED.D (2000)

Dean, Graduate Studies and Business

Ed.D., Saint Joseph's University

M.S., Villanova University

B.S., Widener University

Subject Areas: Leadership, Human Resource Management, Training and Development, Recruitment and Retention, Management, Strategic Management

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RITA TOLIVER-ROBERTS, ED.D. (2012)

Provost, Peirce Operations and Professor, General Education

Ed.D., Rowan University

M.A., Rider University

B.A., Rowan University

Subject Areas: Psychology, Sociology, Organizational Leadership, Higher Education Leadership

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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STUDENT POLICIES

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE

Students on occasion have academic grievances. It is incumbent upon the faculty, staff, and administration to treat students who have grievances with respect and courtesy. Students with grievances should follow the procedure stated in this policy in order to attempt a resolution of their grievances. Throughout the process, students are required to treat the faculty, staff, and administration with respect and courtesy.

Students who wish to appeal an academic dismissal should refer to the Academic Dismissal policy.

A student who has an academic grievance related to attendance, grades, assignments, faculty, or academic policies and procedures must initiate the academic grievance procedure described below within 30 calendar days from the last date of class. Grades are posted on the student portal at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab. Students failure to view course grades does not exempt the student from the 30-day limit.

A student who has an academic grievance related to attendance, grades, assignments, or faculty must adhere to the following procedure:

- A. Contact the faculty member in writing, using the student Peirce College email to discuss the grievance. Students who have an academic grievance as related to the application of a Graduate Studies policy or procedure (outside the purview of an individual course or faculty member and not related to attendance, grades, assignments, or faculty) will initiate the appeal by contacting the Dean, Graduate Studies, directly. Only after the student has met with the faculty member, either in person or by phone, may the student proceed to step B below. In the case of academic grievances related to Graduate Studies policies or procedures, the student may then proceed to step C below after consulting with the Dean, Graduate Studies.
- B. Should this meeting not yield a resolution that is satisfactory to both the student and the faculty member, the student has seven calendar days from the date of the faculty member's decision to appeal to the Dean, Graduate Studies. Such a request must be made in writing and must document the student's attempt to first resolve the grievance with the faculty member.
- C. If, after the Dean, Graduate Studies, has had an opportunity to render his/her opinion, the student is not satisfied with the resolution of the academic grievance, the student may appeal within seven calendar days from the date of the determination by the Dean, Graduate Studies. Such a request must be made in writing to the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost and must document the student's attempt to first resolve the grievance with the Dean, Graduate Studies. If no written request is submitted within the seven-day period, the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall be final.
- D. Upon a student's written request for a review, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost will confirm that a proper review of the grievance was conducted. If, upon review, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost determines that a proper review was conducted, the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall be final. The Vice President-Academic Affairs and Provost may choose to affirm or alter the decision and therefore, is responsible for the final decision.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Peirce College's reputation as an institution of higher learning is characterized by the high academic standards it has established for its students. The College expects students to display personal integrity as they approach their assignments and to complete these assignments in the spirit of academic honesty.

The College considers acts of academic dishonesty to be serious violations of its Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility and will take action against students for violations of this policy (as well as against former students where the College learns of a violation after the student has graduated or ceases to be enrolled).

Any conduct or activity by a student that earns or improves a grade or receives any form of credit by fraudulent or dishonest means is considered an act of academic dishonesty and a violation. In addition, engaging in any conduct including the following examples in which a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances would recognize as academic dishonesty is considered a violation. Examples of acts of academic dishonesty that are violations of the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility include, but are not limited to, the following:

Artificial Intelligence

Using any form of artificial intelligence to alter, create, or solve any academic work including but not limited to research, papers, quizzes, tests, assignments, and discussion posts.

Third Party Tutoring/Paper Writing Services

Using a third-party tutoring service or any type of service, which provides answers or solutions for any assignment, quiz, or examination, in any course, without prior permission of the instructor of the course for which the work is being submitted. Using a third-party paper writing service to write or rewrite a paper.

Contract Cheating

Using a third party to obtain academic work including but not limited to research, papers, quizzes, tests, and discussion posts. Sharing your past assignments with a third party, can lead to others using your work to contract cheat which makes you a party to contract cheating.

Acquiring information

Obtaining research or answers related to any assigned work or examination from any source. Students must be the owner of all of their coursework. Working with another person or persons on any assignment or examination when not specifically permitted by the professor. Although studying together is allowable, students must maintain the integrity of their coursework. Students must seek permission from the instructor before working together on any coursework. Viewing the work of other students during any examination. Using, buying, selling, stealing, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or part, the contents of any assigned coursework or examination without prior written permission from the professor. Submitting or presenting as one's own coursework any examination, any research paper, or other writing assignments prepared by others.

Providing information

Supplying answers or research information for any assigned work or examination (on behalf of yourself or another individual) when not specifically authorized by the professor to do so. Informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given.

Plagiarism

Incorporating the work or idea of another person into one's own work without formally and properly acknowledging, documenting, and citing the source of that work or idea. Attempting to receive credit for

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

work performed by another person, including papers obtained in whole or part from individuals or other sources. Copying or improperly utilizing copyrighted computer programs or data files belonging to someone else. Copying another person's paper/work in whole or in part and handing it in as your own. Paying for and/or downloading from the Internet, all or any portion of a paper, presentation, graphics, or multimedia files and submitting them as your own. Copying words, graphics, or statistics directly from sources of information, such as web pages, magazine/newspaper articles, or books without and properly acknowledging, documenting and citing the sources. Paraphrasing information (i.e., changing a few words) from sources, such as web pages, magazine/newspaper articles, or books without formally documenting the sources.

Reuse of Prior Materials: Submitting substantially the same work to satisfy requirements for one course that has been submitted to satisfy requirements for another course, without prior permission of the instructor of the course for which the work is being submitted. Students are required to consult with their faculty member and gain approval for any prior coursework they would like to submit.

Conspiracy

Agreeing or participating with one or more persons to commit any act of academic dishonesty.

Fabrication of information

Falsifying the results obtained from a research or laboratory experiment. Presenting results of research or laboratory experiments without the research or laboratory experiments having been performed. Substituting for another student to take an examination or to do any academic work or assignment for which academic credit will be received. Changing answers or grades after academic work has been returned to the student and claiming professor error. Submitting work for credit or taking an examination and employing a technique specifically prohibited by the professor in that course, even if such technique would be acceptable in other courses.

Abuse of resource materials

Mutilating, destroying, concealing, stealing, or altering any materials provided to assist students in the completion of academic work, including library books, journals, computer files, microfilm and microfiche files, online resources, materials placed on reserve by the instructor, or any such materials as the instructor may provide or assign. Copying any data files or copyrighted computer program(s) for one's own personal use or the use of others. Copying without permission of the owner, or mutilating or destroying any copyrighted media, printed or electronic (for example, film, video, music, graphics, books, articles, papers, dissertations, art, photography, or manuscript).

Peer-to-Peer File Sharing: Peer-to-peer file sharing is prohibited. This applies to College owned computers as well as personally owned computers that are using the College's network. Under the Acceptable Use Policy, the College's network connections may not be used to violate copyright laws.

SUMMARY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAWS

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under Section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For “willful” infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys’ fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov.

For violations regarding unauthorized use of computers systems and facilities (includes email, logins, or passwords), please refer to the Acceptable Usage of Computer Systems and Facilities policy.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS, PROBATION, AND DISMISSAL

Academic Progress

It is important to Peirce College that students advance successfully toward their educational goals. To that end, graduate students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above to demonstrate academic progress towards the completion of their degree program.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

Graduate students whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 or who receive a grade lower than “B” in a course or courses where a grade of “B” or higher is required will be placed on academic probation. Graduate students on academic probation must improve their GPA to 3.0 or higher and/or receive a grade of “B” or higher when repeating a course where a grade of “B” or higher is required by the end of the next full term in which they are enrolled. Additionally, graduate students placed on probation may be required to complete the Graduate Success Seminar course during the next term in which it is offered. An additional probationary term may be granted at the discretion of the Dean, Graduate Studies. If a student fails to meet the conditions of academic probation he/she is subject to dismissal. Academic probation is a means of informing students that their record is unsatisfactory while there is still time to remedy the situation. Students will be placed on academic probation when their records indicate that normal progress toward a degree is in jeopardy. Probation should be interpreted as a serious warning to improve the quality of academic work.

In certain graduate courses, a grade of “B” or above is required. A student earning a grade lower than “B” in a graduate course or courses where a grade of “B” is required will be placed on academic probation and will be required to repeat the course or courses during the next term in which they are offered (with the exception of the Summer term).

An “F” earned at Peirce College may not be made up at another institution of higher learning for the same course.

The Dean, Graduate Studies, will mail or email each student placed on academic probation or dismissal a letter about the student’s status. Non-receipt of the letter by the student does not exempt the student from this action. When a student has been academically dismissed from Peirce College, a notation of such dismissal shall be placed on the student’s permanent record.

ACTIVE STATUS/CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

To remain in good standing, graduate students must maintain continuous enrollment (i.e., three or more term hours each term) from the term of matriculation through the term of graduation. The only exception is for students on a leave of absence. All graduate students who have been admitted into a graduate program must maintain continuous enrollment each term, or must apply for a formal leave of absence.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Once accepted and matriculated into a Peirce College graduate program, all students are required to complete all required graduate courses through Peirce College and may not complete courses at another institution for transfer credit.

With the approval of the Dean, Graduate Studies, a leave of absence may be granted for a maximum of one calendar year. Leave of absence forms may be obtained online. **A leave of absence does not extend the six-year time limit for completion of all degree requirements.**

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to contribute to the learning environment of their courses and to fulfill their academic responsibilities through active participation in the learning process.

Students should check each course syllabus to determine the specific participation standards for each course. Students who do not meet the attendance and participation standards may receive a lower grade and/or lose financial aid funding. Students are reminded that final grades are determined by performance of course requirements, including attendance and participation.

Solely logging into an online course does not demonstrate academic attendance and/or participation. "Attendance" in online courses, or a week in a course where the student opts to attend online, is determined by the student's participation in the course. Participation in online courses may include the following academic activities: attending a synchronous session, initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a course related question, submitting an assignment, taking an exam, contributing to threaded discussions, or participating in a chat.

Peirce College is committed to creating a safe and secure virtual learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. Students who fail to identify themselves on admission to a live synchronous session may be dismissed from the session by the instructor or facilitator.

Given the learning environment of online courses, even in situations where a student is not "absent" in the traditional sense, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor regarding situations that may prevent the student from fully participating as required.

Students who stop participating and/or attending courses may be considered unofficially withdrawn and, therefore subject to the Return to Title IV Calculation (R2T4). For more information, please review the Drop/Add, Withdrawal, and Unofficial Withdrawal policies. Students are responsible for making up any missed assignments when the instructor permits.

Students who are receiving educational benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs who are expecting to receive full housing benefits/tuition assistance are required to attend Peirce Fit classes on campus for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. To comply with the Department of Defense policy, any unearned tuition assistance (TA) funds on a proportional basis through at least the 60 percent portion of the period for which the funds were provided to the military Service Branch must be returned. TA funds are earned proportionally during an enrollment period, with unearned funds returned based upon when a student stops attending. For information regarding when a military priority arises and your attendance may be impacted see the Military Personnel policy found in Academic Information and Policies section. VA students enrolled under any other Chapter are eligible to participate in the Peirce Fit delivery, on campus and/or online. For an explanation of military benefits, contact your Admissions Advisor or Faculty Advisor.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

15-week Course Withdraw submitted	
Withdraw Period	% Returned
Before or during weeks 1-2	100% return
During weeks 3-4	90% return
During weeks 5-6	75% return
During weeks 7-8	50% return
During weeks 9	40% return (60% of course is completed)
During weeks 10-15	0% return

8-week Course Withdraw submitted	
Withdraw Period	% Returned
Before or during week 1	100% return
During week 2	75% return
During weeks 3-4	50% return
During week 5	40% return (60% of course is completed)
During week 6-8	0% return

Graduate International students, who are on an F-1 Visa, are required to attend full-time (9 credits) in fall and spring terms: 6 of 9 credits are required to attend on campus classes. In the summer term, International students may attend classes online and/ or on campus.

AVERAGE COURSE LOAD

Graduate students are permitted to enroll in courses on a part time basis, taking a maximum of 6 credits per term (fall, spring, summer). Matriculated graduate students who are in good academic standing with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and who have completed 6 credits in the Graduate Studies program with a grade of "B" or higher may petition for approval to enroll as a full-time student. Enrollment as a full-time graduate student requires approval of the student's Graduate Faculty Advisor. Enrollment in graduate programs for approved full-time students is limited to 12 credit hours per term, with no more than 6 credit hours per session.

Students should be aware that full-time enrollment in a Graduate Studies program may impact their financial aid and personal and professional commitments. Students are advised to consult carefully with their Graduate Faculty Advisor as well as the Student Financial Services Office before considering full-time enrollment.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY

All students enrolled at Peirce College are expected to give prompt and thorough attention to their academic responsibilities, to extend courtesy and respect to the faculty and employees of the College, and to respect their fellow students. In addition, each student is responsible for his/her own actions and for ensuring that his/her personal conduct while on the College premises¹, including participating in synchronous learning, and attending online College events, complies with the standards established by the College. This Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility has been developed to promote student growth, to provide students with due process, and to uphold the College's educational mission and standards.

¹ The premises of the College **includes** all buildings within which the College provides educational and related student and alumni services and/or conducts its business operations, whether owned, leased, or provided without charge for use; the campus and surrounding grounds and parking areas adjacent to these buildings; and vehicles owned or leased by Peirce College.

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All students are expected to familiarize themselves with this Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility. Unfamiliarity with this Code does not excuse infractions.

All students who violate the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility fall within the jurisdiction of the Student Disciplinary System, details of which are set forth below.

Peirce College expects the following conduct of all students and alumni:

- Conduct yourself at all times in a manner that displays respect and courtesy for all members of the College community.
- Act with honesty and integrity as you approach your academic responsibilities and prepare your assignments.
- Treat all students, alumni, faculty, and staff, as well as visitors to the College without regard to age, sex, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran's status, military status, or membership in any other group protected under local, state, or federal law.
- Be positive and creative in your approach to resolving problems.
- Report for class free from the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Report any person any person who you know to possess any type of firearms, weapons of any type either purchased or man-made, fireworks or explosive devices while on campus.
- Provide appropriate notice of an unavoidable absence from or lateness in reporting for class or inability to participate in class fully.
- Complete and submit your course assignments on time.
- Perform your scholastic responsibilities and undertake your studies in a prudent and thorough manner.
- Handle with care the property and equipment of the College to prevent its damage, loss, misuse, or theft.
- Report any accidents, injuries (whether your own, another student's, an employee's, or a visitor's), fire, theft, and other unusual incidents immediately after occurrence or discovery.
- Follow all student and academic policies, rules, and procedures established by the College that are applicable to you as a student as well as the specific instructions of the person responsible for directing your academic and/or student social activities.
- Refrain from using for personal, non-academic reasons the property and supplies of the College.
- Provide a photo identification cards upon request.
- Provide complete and honest information in connection with all student and academic records.
- Refrain from manipulating, falsifying, or misrepresenting your educational records (academic or otherwise) or those regarding any other student(s) or concerning Peirce College employee records to others, both within the College community and outside the College community.
- Refrain from accessing, viewing, printing, imputing, deleting, or changing any records, including your own educational records (academic or otherwise) or those regarding any other student(s) or concerning Peirce College employee records (whether in written, electronic, or some other form) without proper authorization from the College.
- Ensure at all times that your conduct is consistent with the standards for student conduct established by Peirce College. Peirce College considers these expectations to be the general standards that govern the conduct of its students. Your failure to meet these expectations may result in counseling or, in cases of serious misconduct, formal disciplinary action up to and

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including expulsion from the College. A discussion of Peirce College's Student Disciplinary System is found later in this section in the Graduate Catalog.

Initiating Proceedings for Violation of Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility

Any student, faculty member, staff member, administrator, individual member, of the College community or any group within the College may report a suspected violation of the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility. Such complaint must be made in writing to the Dean, Graduate Studies. After a preliminary investigation, the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall determine if there is sufficient information to bring charges against a student. Disciplinary proceedings are initiated by the Dean, Graduate Studies, by transmitting a formal charge letter to the student(s), setting forth the charges. Proceedings related to non-academic violations may be initiated at any point during a student's career at the College. There is no time limit on proceedings related to academic dishonesty, which may be initiated even after a student has graduated or ceases to be enrolled.

Relationships with Civil Authorities

Because the College has an interest in preventing inappropriate behavior independent from that of civil or criminal authorities, the College reserves the right to proceed with disciplinary proceedings regardless of possible or pending civil claims or criminal charges arising out of the same or other events. When the College has jurisdiction in a matter subject to the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility, it also has the right to report the matter, whenever appropriate, to civil or criminal authorities. While off-campus misconduct will not normally be the basis for disciplinary action, where the College has an identifiable interest separate from that of the off-campus community, such conduct may be subject to disciplinary action and review by the College.

Policies and Offenses Covered by the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility

Students who know and uphold the standards established by Peirce College for scholastic performance and appropriate student conduct will find their experience at the College rewarding and valuable toward satisfying their personal academic and career goals. Unfortunately, there are times when a student may fail to perform or to conduct him/herself in a manner that is consistent with the College's guidelines and expectations.

In cases of misconduct, Peirce College reserves the right to discipline any student responsible for such behavior. Examples of misconduct covered by the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility and subject to review and enforcement through the Student Disciplinary System include, but are not limited to the following:

- Violating the provisions of Peirce College's Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility or the provisions of any published policy or procedure or regulation of the College, including, but not limited to the policies set forth in this Catalog, including without limitation the policies entitled Equal Opportunity, Academic Honesty, Acceptable Usage of Computer Systems and Facilities, Alcohol and Illegal Drugs and Non-Violence.
- Intentionally engaging in behavior that disrupts or obstructs the instruction of students, any College-sponsored or supervised student activities, and/or the management and business affairs of the College.
- Verbally or physically abusing any person, including but not limited to students, faculty, staff, administrators, contractors, and guests while on College premises or at a College-sponsored or College-supervised function. This includes virtual College events and synchronous learning sessions.
- Stealing property that belongs to the College, any student, employee, contractor, guests or any other person doing business with and/or associated with Peirce College.

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- Failing to comply with directions given by any employee of the College who is engaged in performing his or her official duties.
- Engaging in other serious misconduct as determined in the sole discretion of the College.
- Committing or threatening to commit an act of violence against any member of the College community (including any student, officer, faculty member, manager, supervisor, employee, or graduate of the College or any other person doing business with or associated with the College).

Disciplinary Penalties for Violations of the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility

Students found guilty of a violation of this Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility will be penalized based on the nature and extent of the violation. In addition, some types of violations are so serious that, if engaged in, the College will almost always give a sanction of disciplinary dismissal/expulsion even where the student had not previously received any other lesser disciplinary sanction.

Violations Involving Academic Dishonesty

Students who engage in any form of academic dishonesty, including any student who assists another student in an activity that constitutes a violation of academic integrity is also responsible and accountable for such a violation. For violations against the Policy on Academic Honesty, the College will impose, but not be limited to, one or more of the following penalties:

- The student shall be given a verbal and written warning.
- The student shall be given a grade of zero for the assignment, test, or paper that is the subject of an incident of academic dishonesty.
- The student shall be given a failing grade for the course.
- The student shall be expelled from the College and will not be eligible for readmittance.
- Dismissal from leadership positions and/or honor societies related to the College
- Prohibited from participating in the College's commencement ceremony and/or related activities.

In the event a student receives any of these penalties, a notation of the violation shall be placed in the student's file in the Office of the Dean, Graduate Studies.

Violations Not Involving Academic Dishonesty

If students are found to have violated the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility for any reason other than academic dishonesty, the College will impose, not be limited to, one or more of the following penalties:

- The student is given a disciplinary warning and may be required to participate in support services, counseling, and/or workshops.
- The student is placed on disciplinary probation. Under this level, the student may be dismissed from leadership positions and/or honor societies related to the College and/or being prohibited from participating in the College's commencement ceremony and/or related activities. In addition, other sanctions may be given, including without limitation, monetary penalty, mandatory counseling, community work, required educational programming, or such other sanctions as the College deems appropriate.
- The student shall be expelled from the College and will not be eligible for re-admittance.

Based on the nature of the offense, the College reserves the right to assign the appropriate disciplinary actions. Depending on the alleged offense, students may be placed on temporary college suspension. During this suspension, students will not be allowed on campus for any reason however, the

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student may be allowed to attend classes online (if applicable) while the Code of Conduct Violation is being investigated. Students who have had more than one Code of Conduct Violation, may be subject to more severe sanctions up to and including expulsion with each repeated offense.

Students should also be aware that their conduct may result in the College reporting incidents to police or other law enforcement authorities and the initiation of legal action. In the event a student receives a sanction of disciplinary probation, suspension, or disciplinary dismissal/expulsion, a notation of such probation or dismissal shall be placed in the student's files in the Office of the Registrar and the Office of the Dean, Graduate Studies.

In addition, with respect to a violation of the Non-Violence policy, any weapon found on College owned or leased property will be confiscated and turned over to the local law enforcement. Any student found to be in possession of a weapon or fireworks and explosive devices while on the College premises (which includes all buildings within which the College provides educational and related student services and/or conducts its business operations, whether owned, leased, or provided without charge for use; the grounds and parking areas adjacent to these buildings; and vehicles owned or leased by Peirce College) or while participating in any off-campus College activity or event may be immediately suspended from the College at the discretion of the Dean, Graduate Studies, and may remain suspended until the matter has been investigated.

Other Sanctions

Additional sanctions may be imposed to cover specific conditions or situations including, but not limited to, restitution or replacement of lost, damaged, or stolen property; payment for damage or personal injury; suspension of privileges to participate in any College-sponsored activity; suspension of eligibility to use certain College facilities; prohibition from participating in commencement ceremony and/or related events; referral to drug abuse or alcohol counseling; or periodic meetings with the Dean, Graduate Studies.

Structure of the Student Disciplinary System

The goal of the following procedures and structure is to promote fundamental fairness and to protect students from arbitrary or capricious disciplinary action and will be adhered to as faithfully as possible. However, if circumstances dictate variation from these procedures and structure, the variation will not invalidate a decision unless the circumstances prevented a fair hearing.

The Dean, Graduate Studies,² shall have the following duties and responsibilities with regard to the Student Disciplinary System:

- Coordinate all aspects of the College's disciplinary system, including informing students of charges lodged against them, investigating charges, and undertaking such other activities as may be necessary to implement the provisions of the Student Disciplinary System.
- Coordinate the gathering of all facts regarding a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.
- Conduct interviews with students charged with a violation of the Code of Student Conduct; the Dean, Graduate Studies, will provide students who have been charged an opportunity to discuss the matter.
- Determine student accountability for violations of the Code of Student Conduct in a manner that ensures fundamental fairness and to assign sanctions in cases where guilt is determined.
- Advise students charged with a violation of the Code of Student Conduct of their appeal options.

² References to the "Dean of Graduate Studies" throughout this policy also includes his or her designee, where the Dean of Graduate Studies is either unavailable or believes it is appropriate to excuse himself/herself for conflict reasons.

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- Maintain disciplinary records in accordance with the College's policy on retention of student records and with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended. For related information on FERPA, please refer to the FERPA policy.

Disciplinary Procedures

Students charged with a violation of this Code of Student Conduct shall be presumed to be innocent of all charges until their guilt has been determined on the basis of an admission of guilt or on the basis of evidence properly submitted. The following procedures have been established to ensure fundamental fairness in disciplinary proceedings. Accused students shall be provided the following:

- A written notice of the alleged charges against them. If additional charges are brought, a further written notice will be sent. These notices are sent via first class as well as certified mail. It shall be considered proper notice if the notice is forwarded to the last known home address on record in the Office of the Registrar.
- An interview with the Dean, Graduate Studies, in which the student is (1) fully informed of the charges lodged against him/her and of the procedures under the Student Disciplinary System and (2) given an opportunity to discuss the matter.
- The opportunity to review all available information and documents gathered during the preliminary investigation and to provide a statement, other information, or a list of individuals who may provide information on the student's behalf.
- A forum to present relevant information on his or her own behalf. Such relevant information may take the form of witness statements or witness testimony.
- The right to refuse to answer any question or make any statement; in this situation, the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall make the decision solely on the basis of the evidence presented.
- A decision based upon the preponderance of evidence presented. The decision shall take into consideration the severity of and conditions under which the alleged misconduct/violation of policy occurred; whether the alleged misconduct/violation of policy involved more than one rule or standard of conduct; the credibility of each of the witnesses or witness statements; and any other evidence the Dean, Graduate Studies, deems relevant in his or her sole discretion.

Evidence is admissible, at the sole discretion of the Dean, Graduate Studies, when it is shown to be relevant to the factual issues of the case. Evidence obtained by a search of a student's person or property by an authorized College administrator or official shall be admissible where the College official has reasonable cause to believe both that the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility had been violated and that this particular piece of evidence of the violation was present.

Only after a decision of guilt is reached will information concerning an accused student's past disciplinary record be considered in determining appropriate sanctions.

All interviews or meetings conducted by the Dean, Graduate Studies, during the course of his/her investigation shall be closed to the public. Witnesses who are called to testify shall not be permitted to attend any other interview or meeting except that in which they themselves testify. If the report of alleged misconduct/policy violation involves more than one student, the students involved may request that their matter be handled separately from the other students. The Dean, Graduate Studies, shall determine whether separate investigations are warranted.

After the Dean, Graduate Studies, has completed his/her investigation, accused students are entitled to written notification by certified mail or email of the decision within three business days of the rendering the decision.

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Right of Appeal

Students found guilty have seven calendar days from the date of the decision letter to submit a written request to the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, for an appeal, setting forth the basis of the appeal and any substantiating material. If no written request is submitted within the seven-day period, the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall be final.

Students found guilty may request an appeal to the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, on the grounds that: (1) information that was not available at the time of the hearing has become available and could reasonably be expected to have altered the outcome of the case; (2) the College's disciplinary system was violated in a way that adversely affected the outcome of the case; or (3) the sanction was unduly harsh and not justifiable. The Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, shall have the discretion to grant written requests for appeal by students found guilty by the Dean, Graduate Studies. If the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, denies a written request for appeal, the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, is final. If the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, determines that a student's request for appeal has merit, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, shall hear the appeal and render a decision. Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, shall provide the student with written notice of his/her determination within three business days of rendering his/her decision.

Except as provided in the next paragraph, the decision of the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, shall be final.

In cases where the sanction imposed is expulsion from the College, the student shall have the right within seven calendar days from the date of the determination by the Dean, Graduate Studies, to submit a written request to the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, for review of the disciplinary procedures followed.

If no written request is submitted within the seven-day period, the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall be final. If a proper written request is received, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, will confirm that the Dean, Graduate Studies, conducted a proper review of the matter. If, upon review, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, determines that a proper review was conducted, the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall be final. If, upon review, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, determines that a proper review was not conducted, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, shall conduct such additional review as he or she feels, in his or her sole discretion, is necessary to render a decision. The Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost, may choose to affirm or alter the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, and, therefore, is responsible for the final decision. Except under emergency situations as set forth below, until accused students have exhausted their appeal rights, their status at the College shall not be affected. However, as noted below, students who are being investigated for a violation of the College's Code of Conduct, are in the process of appealing a charge that they violated the Code of Conduct or have been found to be in violation of the College's Code of Conduct may be prohibited from participating in the commencement ceremony. In cases alleging malicious or violent acts, a student may be prohibited from attending classes or other College-sponsored events pending the outcome of the investigation.

Emergency Situations/Interim Suspension

Because situations may arise that may not be fully covered by this Code, the Dean, Graduate Studies, is granted the sole discretion to exercise good judgement in emergency situations. Toward that end, the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall have the authority in emergency situations to issue temporary rules and regulations to prohibit student conduct including, but not limited to, suspending a student's right to be present on the College's premises, including synchronous learning sessions and online College events, pending further disciplinary proceedings when a student's presence is deemed by the College to be a

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threat to order, health, safety, or the College's educational mission. These determinations shall be made on the basis of evidence presented to the Dean, Graduate Studies. The premises of the College include all buildings within which the College provides educational and related student services and/or conducts its business operations, whether owned, leased, or provided without charge for use, the campus as well as surrounding grounds and parking areas adjacent to these buildings, and vehicles owned or leased by Peirce College.

Subject to the emergency nature of the situation and where reasonably possible, the Dean, Graduate Studies, will provide the student with an opportunity to be heard before a decision is made to impose an interim suspension or conditions on the student's attendance. Where feasible, the Dean, Graduate Studies, may expedite the investigation of a charge against a student against whom an interim suspension or conditions of attendance are imposed.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Although degrees are conferred three times per year in August, December, and May, the commencement ceremony is held once a year in June. All candidates for graduation must complete an Application for Graduation, pay the graduation fee at time of application, and submit the form electronically to the Office of the Registrar. Students can go to the following website to apply for graduation: <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab. Failure to complete this form in a timely manner may preclude a student from participating in the ceremony and graduating within a student's desired timeframe. Degrees will not be conferred retroactively. Students who have met all academic and financial obligations, but who have not applied for graduation will have their degrees conferred during the next conferral period. To participate in the commencement ceremony, all degree and/or certificate program requirements must be satisfied. In addition, the Capstone project must have been successfully completed and presented with approval of the faculty and Graduate Studies.

All students must pay a graduation fee.

The graduation fee helps subsidize the cost of the commencement ceremony, the diploma and cover, and postage associated with the mailing of the diploma. This fee does not include the cost of the cap and gown for the commencement ceremony. The graduation fee must be paid whether or not a student participates in commencement.

All financial obligations to the College must be met in order to participate in the commencement ceremony. Students who have not met financial obligations and/or have not completed required coursework will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony and will not be able to receive their diploma. In addition, students who are being investigated for a violation of the College's Code of Conduct or have been found to be in violation of the College's Code of Conduct may be prohibited from participating in the ceremony.

Degree Requirements for Graduation

To qualify for graduation and to be eligible for participation in commencement ceremony, graduate students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Approval of the faculty advisor indicating that all academic requirements have been fulfilled.
- Successful completion of the total number of credits and all courses required for the program.
- Successful completion of all course-related program requirements with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- Compliance with all academic requests including submission of a graduation application.

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Criteria for Awarding Posthumous Degrees

In certain rare instances, Peirce College may award a posthumous degree. In such cases, students who have earned a minimum of 30 credits toward a master's degree and have been in good standing at the time of their death may be eligible to receive a posthumous degree. Each request will be carefully reviewed by the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost. After approval, the posthumous degree will be conferred. Such degrees will be considered for award only in the academic year in which the student would normally have graduated.

TIME TO DEGREE COMPLETION

From the date of first matriculation to a graduate studies program at Peirce College, the maximum timeframe for graduate students to complete a master's degree is six years. Students who have not completed the graduate degree within this timeframe will need to complete an appeal for a degree completion extension and submit the appropriate fee to the Dean, Graduate Studies.

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Academic Advising is considered an essential part of the graduate student experience. Graduate faculty serve as faculty advisors providing guidance about completing degree requirements and coursework, planning and conducting graduate-level academic research, and investigating opportunities for practical experiences that may enhance students' learning. Graduate faculty work collaboratively with students, throughout the duration of students' enrollment, to ensure students' progress toward degree completion. Graduate faculty members also serve on capstone research project committees.

COURSE AUDITING

Students or alumni may audit courses for the purpose of reviewing course content. Grades will not be provided and credit will not be granted for audited courses. Audited courses may not be applied to course requirements for any degree programs. Financial aid will not be applied to the cost of audited courses. Class space must be available and audit fees must be paid in advance in order for students or alumni to audit a course. The Course Audit Application must be completed by the student or alumni and approved by the Dean, Graduate Studies. Students or alumni have seven calendar days from the start date of a course to drop or add an audited course. Refund schedules from the College's drop/add and withdrawal policies will be applied to audited courses.

Students or alumni who wish to audit a course in which they have not previously received credit must pay full tuition for the requested course. Although, in these cases, full tuition is required, grades will not be provided, credit will not be granted, and the course may not be applied to fulfill degree requirements. Students seeking to audit a course in which transfer credit was earned may do so only if they are enrolled in additional courses at the College.

COURSE GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to meet the passing grade requirements for courses taken. For some major courses, graduate students are required to earn a grade of "B" or above. Students who do not meet this grade requirement are placed on academic probation and are required to repeat the course. For a listing of courses in which a grade of "B" or above is required, please see the course description section of the Graduate Catalog.

COURSE REPEAT

Graduate students are only permitted to repeat a course once. When courses are repeated, the higher grade received for a course is used to calculate the GPAs. The lower grade(s) are not included in the GPA calculation. Grade reports and transcripts will reflect all courses attempted and earned. Graduate students matriculated into Peirce College may only repeat graduate courses by enrolling in Peirce College graduate courses. **Retired courses cannot be repeated. For questions regarding retired courses, students should contact their Faculty Advisor.**

In accordance with the Grading policy, please note the following:

- Courses in which grades of NG*, W, F, or C- have been earned may be repeated

Courses in which a grade of "B" or above is required and not earned must be repeated at Peirce College. Students who need to repeat a course should consult with their Faculty Advisor.

Repeating Failed or Withdrawn Courses

Students can repeat a course in which they initially earned a grade of "NG*", "F" or "W". Federal regulations limit the number of times a student may attempt a course and receive financial aid for that course. Ineligible repeated courses will be excluded from eligible credits in a student's enrollment for financial aid purposes.

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Students can attempt a course in which they initially earned a grade of “NG*”, “F”, or “W” course up to 3 times using financial aid (Title IV Funding). Any class taken a **fourth** time will not be covered under Title IV funding (financial aid). If attempts for a course were excluded from Title IV Funding (out of pocket or other payments), additional attempts may be covered.

Important Note: Student Financial Services does not determine if a student may repeat a class, only whether a student may be eligible for Title IV funding/financial aid for additional attempts.

Students who need to repeat a course previously taken at Peirce College are not eligible to repeat the course as an Independent Study at Peirce College, a Peirce College Test Out or PLA, or by utilizing a Third-Party Credit provider.

Meeting Course Grade Requirements

Students who have not failed or withdrawn from a course but need to repeat a course due to a “B” or above requirement not being achieved, can repeat the course a second time utilizing financial aid funds (if available). In instances where a student has not been successful after completing a course for a second time, the student must appeal to his/her Faculty Advisor prior to taking a course for a third time or more. The appeal is made by the student to the Academic Advisor addressing the reasons why an exception to the course repeat rule is requested and a plan for succeeding in the course if the request is approved.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING (CPL)

Peirce College reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to allow students to earn/apply up to 12 credits toward a master’s degree through a combination of transfer credits and portfolio assessment. Of these credits, only 6 credits can be earned through portfolio assessment. For 30-credit master’s degree programs, only 9 transfer credits are permitted.

While resources are available to assist and inform students who are considering applying for Credit for Prior Learning, the decision to apply for credit for any particular course is ultimately the student’s alone. Not all applications are successful.

CREDIT BY PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT

At the sole discretion of the College, a portfolio assessment provides a means for students to earn college credit via portfolio assessment when job-related training and experience, non-job-related training, volunteer work, self-directed study, travel, or hobbies enable students to prepare a portfolio providing direct evidence of learning equivalent to are similar to the learning outcomes for a particular course. As a general guideline, a portfolio should take 20 to 30 hours to complete. Students may not submit for credit for portfolio assessment for a course that he/she has previously completed with a grade lower than a “C”. To apply for credit for work experience, the student must comply with the following process:

- Provide a personal resume identifying the job held and specific responsibilities. Credit for Prior Learning may be awarded for currently or previously held jobs in addition to an assessment of the required documentation below.
- Submit a reference letter from the appropriate manager/supervisor documenting the nature, frequency, and duration of the work experience that is related to the course.
- Write an essay that demonstrates how the learning objectives for the course have been met by the prior experience.
- Provide documentation such as job descriptions, certificates, examples/samples of work, awards, performance evaluations, licenses, dates and times of participation in the activity, letters or memos supporting participation, or anything else that would help to prove/confirm work experience.

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Consult with the Dean, Graduate Studies, and/or his or her designee prior to constructing the document. The completed document is to be submitted to the Dean, Graduate Studies. At the discretion of the Dean, Graduate Studies, students may include a course's final project as part of the Credit for Portfolio Assessment documentation that they submit, along with the learning essay required, to show that they meet the course outcomes as outlined in the syllabus.

If the Credit for Prior Learning is approved by the Graduate Studies Faculty, the title of the course, credit hours, and notation of Credit by Prior Learning will be recorded on the student's permanent record. The credit hours earned are not included in the calculation of the student's grade point average. Please see current fee schedule at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Finances tab, for exact fee for Credit for Portfolio Assessment.

If the evaluator requests additional information from the student before granting credit, the student will receive a pending notification and an explanation of what must be added or amended. The Credit for Prior Learning documentation may only be resubmitted once, prior to the end of the following term (fall, spring, and summer). Should the Credit for Prior Learning be denied, the fee would be applied toward future tuition charges at Peirce College within one year from date of denial. If the Credit for Prior Learning submission is denied, the student may not subsequently seek Credit for Prior Learning or test out for this same course but must enroll in the actual course for credit.

DISABILITY SERVICES

In its commitment to ensuring that no otherwise qualified student with a disability is subjected to unlawful discrimination in the context of his/her educational experience, Peirce College makes certain that students with disabilities are provided equal access to educational and career development programs and/or student activities. Consequently, the College will make, on behalf of qualified students with learning and physical disabilities of which the College is aware, reasonable accommodations that do not impose undue hardships on the College. If a student believes he/she requires a reasonable accommodation or has a question regarding educational services, activities, programs or facilities that are accessible to or usable by students with disabilities, please contact the Student Disability Services Coordinator in the Mary W. Walker '33 Center for Academic Excellence and/or the Dean, Graduate Studies. All information associated with a disclosure of this nature is confidential, and the College will communicate this information to others only on a need-to-know basis.

Grievance Procedure

A student who has a grievance concerning disability services that have been requested or are being provided must initiate the procedure described below within 30 calendar days of the alleged occurrence. A student with a grievance related to disability services that have been requested or are being provided must adhere to the following procedure:

- A. Contact the Student Disability Coordinator to discuss the grievance. Any person(s) acting on behalf of the student may file a grievance with the Student Disability Services Coordinator. Only after the student has met with the Student Disability Services Coordinator, either in person or by phone, may the student proceed to step B below.
- B. Should this meeting not yield a resolution that is satisfactory to both the student and the Student Disability Services Coordinator, the student or person(s) acting on behalf of the student may appeal to the Dean, Graduate Studies. Students must appeal within seven calendar days from the date of the determination by the Student Disability Services Coordinator. Such a request must be made in writing and must document the student's attempt to first resolve the grievance with the Student Disability Services Coordinator.

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- C. Should the matter not be resolved with the aid of the Dean, Graduate Studies, the student or person(s) acting on behalf of the disabled student may appeal to the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost. Students must appeal within seven calendar days from the date of the determination by the Dean, Graduate Studies. Such a request must be made in writing and must document the student's attempt to first resolve the grievance with the Dean, Graduate Studies.
- D. Upon a student's written request for a review, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost will determine if a proper review of the grievance was conducted. If, upon review, the Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost determines that a proper review was conducted, the decision of the Dean, Graduate Studies, shall be final. The Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost may choose to affirm or alter the decision and therefore, is responsible for the final decision.

Accessibility Statement

Peirce College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for an accessible campus to include but not limited to gender neutral restrooms.

DROP/ADD

Students are strongly encouraged to discuss with their faculty advisor and the Office of Financial Services any changes to their academic plan. Drop/Add requests can be submitted online by logging into <https://peircecollege.onelogin.com/>, click on the My.Peirce app, at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab.

Students requesting to drop/add must adhere to the following policies:

Drop

Students are allowed seven calendar days from the start date of a course to drop a course and receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement. Day one of the drop period begins the first day of class. For example, if a student's class begins on Monday, the student has through the following Sunday to drop the course. Students who do not attend and/or participate in class for the first two consecutive weeks from the start of class will be administratively dropped. Students who initiate a drop of course(s) within a term or between sessions, may affect the financial aid students were originally eligible for. Financial penalties may apply to students who are dropped or initiate a drop. Please refer to the Attendance and Participation policy and the financial aid policies.

For exact dates, please consult the academic calendar, which may be found at online by logging into <https://peircecollege.onelogin.com/>, click on the My.Peirce app, at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab.

The student is responsible for initiating the drop process with his/her faculty advisor. Students should discuss the academic consequences of dropping a course with their faculty advisor. Students should discuss the financial ramifications of dropping a course with their financial aid specialist. The effective drop date is determined by the date the student phones, faxes, emails, or submits online or in person the drop request to the faculty advisor. It is strongly recommended that students drop/add courses online by logging into <https://peircecollege.onelogin.com/>, click on the My.Peirce app, at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab.

Any work the student has contributed and submitted via class companion websites will be removed upon completion of processing a drop.

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In general, students are not required to have the approval of a faculty advisor and/or financial aid specialist to drop/add courses. However, students who have a hold on their account such as a financial or academic hold are required to gain approval from their faculty advisor/financial aid specialist. Holds to students' accounts are indicated on the student portal at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab.

Add

Students are allowed seven calendar days from the start date of a course to add a course. A course cannot be added after the seventh calendar day. The effective add date is determined by the date the student phones, faxes, emails, or submits online or in person the add request to the faculty advisor.

In general, students are not required to have the approval of a faculty advisor and/or financial aid specialist to drop/add courses. However, students who have a hold on their account such as a financial or academic hold are required to gain approval from their faculty advisor/financial aid specialist. Holds to students' accounts are indicated on the student portal at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab.

Students are encouraged to discuss course schedule changes or additions with their financial aid specialist and faculty advisor. Full tuition will be charged for a class that is added. Students are responsible for contacting the faculty member, obtaining textbooks, and completing any missed work for the newly added course. Generally, students can expect to have some course assignments due during the first week of class. Adding a class after the course start date may result in a student missing required assignments for the first week. It is strongly encouraged that students register for classes and obtain their required textbooks in advance of a class start date.

Once classes are selected, students become preregistered. It may take 24-48 hours before your classes to become "current". A current class is the equivalent of being registered and able to attend class. Once it has been determined that your estimated financial resources can cover the cost of your tuition, your classes are made current by a member of the Student Financial Services department. If a class is left in the pre-registered status, then you are unable to attend that course until your financial obligations have been resolved.

GRADING

Final grades are based on the performance of class requirements as stated in the course syllabus and/or modified during the course by the faculty member. Grades submitted become part of the College's permanent student records. Some important information about grading follows:

- Grades are calculated and submitted by the faculty member within 72 hours of the last day of the session.
- Graduate students must earn a grade of "B" or above in certain courses. For a listing of graduate courses in which a grade of "B" or above is required, please see the course description section of the Graduate Catalog.
- The original grade earned will remain on the transcript. The higher of the two grades will be computed in the grade point average.
- It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course.
- Faculty members do not have the authority to enter a grade of "W."
- If a student enrolls to repeat a course but does not complete the course and receives an approved withdrawal, a "W" will appear on the student's transcript.
- A student who voluntarily withdraws by the withdrawal deadline as stated in the academic calendar will receive a "W" and will be charged in full for the course.

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- In online and in hybrid courses, students who fail to attend the first two weeks of class will be administratively dropped.
- The effective date of drop, add, or withdrawal is determined by the date the student phones, faxes, emails, or submits online or in person the request(s). Students are strongly encouraged to review their request(s) with their Academic Advisor and the Office of Student Financial Services
- Students who fail to attend a course for which the he or she is registered and fails to withdraw properly will receive an "F" for the course and be charged for the course.

The following chart illustrates the graduate grading scale at Peirce College:

Letter Grade	Course Average	Grade Point Equivalent
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
F	< 73	0.0
P	Passing	None
W	Voluntary Withdrawal	None
I	Incomplete	0.0

Resolving Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades for graduate courses other than the Capstone course are assigned due to illness, emergency, or extenuating circumstances. The granting of an Incomplete grade is done at the sole discretion of the faculty member and should not be considered the norm. An Incomplete grade must be requested in writing from the student to the faculty member no later than 24 hours prior to the last class session. If the Incomplete is granted, students may have up to 14 calendar days from the date of the last class session to resolve the Incomplete. **Unresolved Incomplete grades will change to an "F" after 14 calendar days.**

CAPSTONE/PRACTICUM COURSE EXTENSION POLICY

Graduate students who are enrolled in a Capstone course or a Capstone/Practicum course may apply for a full-term extension to the course subject to the following policies:

- Students must request the extension from their course instructor prior to the ending date of the course. Students must have made substantial progress in the course (as determined by the course instructor) in order to request an extension.
- Requests must then be approved by the Dean, Graduate Studies.
- The extension will be noted as enrollment in a one-credit graduate course for which graduate tuition is charged accordingly.
- Students on extension will continue working with the same faculty member, availability permitting.
- The extension must be requested for the term immediately following the term in which the Capstone or Capstone/Practicum course was originally taken.

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- Students who successfully complete all Capstone or Capstone/Practicum course requirements will receive a grade of “P” in the Extension course and their final course grade for the original Capstone or Capstone/Practicum course will be revised accordingly.
- Students are not permitted to take a second Capstone extension or Capstone/Practicum extension.

This policy is only applicable to the Capstone course or the Capstone/Practicum course, and is not applicable towards any other graduate course.

Eligible courses under this policy include: OLM 590, HCA 590, OPM 590, ONL 590, and OHL 590.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent Study is a course format that allows students to undertake well-defined coursework under the guidance of an instructor. Courses that run in the IS format include weekly office hours. Weekly synchronous sessions are not offered. Independent Study will be approved at the discretion of the Dean, Graduate Studies, and should not be considered the “norm.” Independent Study will only be approved for existing Peirce College courses within the Graduate Studies programs. Students are asked to closely with their assigned faculty advisor to plan their course schedules on an annual basis and to make any requests for an Independent Study in a timely fashion.

Request for Independent Study forms are available on the web portal at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Advising tab and should be submitted to the student’s Faculty Advisor. The following conditions must be met:

- Independent Study may only be requested when the course is a required course or a prerequisite for a required course for graduation and there are no other course options.
- If the course has been canceled and that course is a required course or a prerequisite for a required course for graduation and there are no other course options, then an Independent Study may be requested.
- The student must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average to qualify for Independent Study and must have completed at least 6 (six) credits of graduate coursework through enrollment in Peirce College graduate courses.
- The request for Independent Study should be submitted no later than two weeks prior to session start, except when a course has been canceled.

The faculty member facilitating the Independent Study is responsible for contacting the student during the first week of class. The faculty member will inform the student of course responsibilities and expectations and provide textbook information. If the student does not respond to messages, the faculty member will notify the Dean, Graduate Studies, and the student may be dropped from the Independent Study.

Independent Study follows the same drop/add/ withdraw procedures as any other course. Attendance and participation will be recorded by the faculty member on a weekly basis; attendance will consist of either submission of a graded assignment or academic dialogue with the supervising faculty member.

The student has seven calendar days after the first contact by the faculty member to drop the class to receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement. If the course is dropped after the seventh day, full tuition is charged for the course. The student must formally drop the class during this period or receive an “F” if she/he does not follow through with course obligations. The effective drop/add/withdraw date is

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determined by the date the student phones, faxes, emails, or submits online or in person the request to drop, add, or withdraw from an Independent Study.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

With the approval of the Dean, Graduate Studies, a leave of absence may be granted for a maximum of one calendar year. Students may request a leave of absence in a written request to their Faculty Advisor. A leave of absence does not extend the six-year time limit for completion of all degree requirements.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Peirce College recognizes that location, relocation, and deployment constraints make traditional course management and attendance difficult for military personnel. When military priorities arise, the following options are available regardless of the amount of coursework completed:

- Elect to receive an extension without additional charge
 - Drop the course without academic or financial penalty (financial stipulations may vary for students using VA benefits).
 - Students must inform their Faculty Advisor and the College's VA Certifying Official in writing by mail, email, or fax as soon as possible and provide copies of deployment papers or supportive documentation.
-

PREREQUISITE COURSES

A prerequisite is a course or group of courses that must be taken and successfully completed before another course is taken. Students must have met all prerequisite course requirements for a given course prior to the first day of class. While students may preregister for classes that have prerequisites that are not yet met, it is the student's responsibility to be certain that all prerequisites have been successfully completed. If a student learns that she/he has not successfully completed a prerequisite course, it is the student's responsibility to drop the course for which the prerequisite is required. Course prerequisites, if applicable, are listed in the Graduate Catalog along with the course description.

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Current student transcripts and related academic information is contained in the student's official academic file, maintained by the Office of the Registrar. The College retains a student's official academic file indefinitely. Official transcripts will not be issued to or on behalf of students who are indebted to the College.

The College maintains disciplinary records in the student's file in the Office of the Dean, Graduate Studies. The disciplinary file contains documentation of all disciplinary actions taken against the student and related information. The College retains a student's disciplinary file indefinitely. Where a student has been dismissed from the College for disciplinary reasons, a notation of such dismissal shall be placed in the student's disciplinary and academic file.

Student Financial Services is required to keep records relating to its administration of all campus based aid programs for three years (3) after the end of the award year for which the aid was awarded and disbursed under each campus based aid program. Regulation 34CFR 668.24(e)

UNOFFICIAL WITHDRAWAL

Students are responsible for meeting attendance/ participation requirements for the courses in which they are enrolled. In addition, students are required to follow the Withdrawal from Class policy for courses in

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which they started but did not continue participation. Class withdrawal dates are listed on the academic calendar, which is posted at my.peirce.edu. Students who fail to follow the Withdrawal from Class policy will receive the appropriate grade earned for the course. However, students who cease enrollment for all classes within a given session and earn a grade of “F” or “*NG”, may be subject to financial aid penalties. Under this circumstance, a withdrawal calculation is required to re-determine financial aid eligibility. Based on the calculation previously dispersed aid funds may need to be returned which may result in the student owing a balance to the College.

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASS

Students are strongly encouraged to discuss with their faculty advisor and the Office of Student Financial Services any changes to their academic plan. Drop/Add requests can be submitted at <https://my.peirce.edu> under the My Classes tab.

A request to drop a course after the assigned drop date will be treated as a “withdrawal.” A “W” grade is given to students who officially withdraw from a course on or before the withdrawal date noted in the academic calendar. The “W” grade is not computed into the grade point average. Faculty do not have the authority to enter a grade of “W.” Accordingly, students are responsible for completing the required paperwork to withdraw from a course. The withdrawal form is available from Academic Advisors or online by logging into <https://peircecollege.onelogin.com/>, click on the My.Peirce app, under the My Advising tab.

The completed withdrawal form is submitted to the Faculty Advisor. Students cannot withdraw My.Peirce. The effective withdrawal date is determined by the date the student phones, faxes, emails, or submits online or in person the request to withdraw to the Faculty Advisor. Students must discuss the academic consequences of withdrawing from a course with their Faculty Advisor. All withdrawals are subject to a Return to Title IV calculation (R2T4). This may result in the reduction of a student’s financial aid funding. This change may also result in a student owing a balance to the College and/or not receiving an expected refund. Students should be aware that ceasing class attendance/participation prior to the end of a payment period may negatively impact their financial aid package.

Not attending or participating in class does not automatically result in a course withdrawal. Students who wish to withdraw from a class must follow the withdrawal procedure. Students who stop attending and participating in class and do not follow the withdrawal from class procedure may be subject to Financial Aid penalties as listed under the Unofficial Withdrawal policy.

Students are fully responsible for all tuition and related costs associated with the course from which the student is withdrawing. Students should be aware that withdrawals can lead to violations of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy. Students who request a course withdrawal from their Faculty Advisor by telephone must follow up in writing within seven calendar days in order to document the request. Any work the student has contributed and submitted via class companion websites up to the withdrawal date will be deleted upon completion of the processing of the withdrawal.

For related information, please refer to the Institutional Withdrawal and Refund and SAP policies.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COLLEGE

Students who wish to withdraw from the College may do so by submitting a written or email request to their faculty advisor. Students cannot withdraw from the College at my.peirce.edu. The effective withdrawal date is determined by the date the student submits his/her request to withdraw from the College. Students not returning to Peirce College, and had received any Title IV funds at anytime during your enrollment, will need to be complete exit counseling online [at www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

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Students who are not enrolled in classes up to one calendar year after the end date of their last completed course(s) will be withdrawn from the College. Students withdrawn from the College, after one calendar year of non-attendance, will need to apply for re-admittance. Please refer to the Re-Admittance policy.

For related information regarding students' financial responsibility, please refer to the Institutional Withdrawal and Refund policy and the Tuition Payment policy.

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ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS & DATA

This policy applies to Peirce College's **Electronic Communications Resources** owned, leased, or managed by the College, including, but not limited to, the following:

- All components of the electronic communications physical infrastructure (for example, telephones, desktop computers, laptops, printers, servers, routers, and wireless devices).
- All electronic communications and data (for example, staff and student information), or other identifiers associated with the College's systems and services (for example, email addresses and logins).
- Internet access, telephone (office and cellular), electronic mail, fax, photocopying, audio, and video recording, instant messaging and social media (for example, personal websites, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn; collectively, "Electronic Communications Resources").

All students are required to use their Peirce College electronic identification (i.e., login) when utilizing a College computer. All users of the College's Electronic Communications Resources and Technology shall have no expectation of privacy over such use.

Electronic Communications Resources are provided to students for the sole purpose of research and other activities related to College courses. As an exception to the foregoing limitation, students may use the Electronic Communications Resources for personal purposes, provided that such use:

- is kept to a minimum.
- does not directly or indirectly interfere with the College's operation of the Electronic Communications Resources.
- does not negatively impact a student's work-study employment, performance, or obligations to the College.

Students shall not, under any circumstances, use Peirce College Electronic Communications Resources for unlawful activities, including:

- commercial purposes.
- personal financial gain.
- disruptive purposes or to defame the College or any third party.
- distribution of jokes, personal graphics, video clips, or solicitations.

Students must **not** give the impression that they are representing, giving opinions, or otherwise making statements on behalf of Peirce College, unless authorized to do so and limited to student work-study-related matters. All authorized electronic communications sent on behalf of the College must contain the College's approved legal disclaimer.

Students must **not** directly, by implication, or through use of software, employ a false identity (i.e., spoof), or the name or electronic identification of another.

Students must **not** use Peirce College electronic communications resources for purposes that could reasonably be expected to cause excessive strain directly or indirectly on the College's Electronic Communications Resources or interference with others' use of the College's Electronic Communications Resources. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Sending or forwarding electronic mail chain letters.

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- Exploiting electronic communications systems for purposes beyond their intended scope to amplify the widespread distribution of unsolicited electronic communications.
- Sending an extremely large message or sending multiple electronic communications to one or more recipients to interfere with the recipients' use of electronic communications systems and services.
- Excessive bandwidth utilization (for example: downloading movies).

The electronic communication method known as **Instant Messaging** (IM or ICQ) and any derivations of unsanctioned electronic communications tools are not permitted to be used on or in connection with Peirce College's Electronic Communications Resources, unless configured and installed by a member of the College's Information Technology Department for College-related educational/research/business and other specifically authorized purposes. Reasonable efforts are made by the College to filter out **unsolicited** electronic messages, sent or posted as part of a larger collection of messages, all having **substantially identical content, and commonly referred to as "spam"**. However, given the nature of the Internet, the College cannot prevent users from receiving electronic communications they might find offensive. The College is not responsible for any harm, loss, or damage incurred by an individual as a result of personal use of or inability to use the College's Electronic Communications Resources.

The use of **cell phones** at Peirce College by students, although not prohibited, should not interfere with the learning environment. Cell phone use is not permitted in classrooms, computer labs, and the Library under any circumstances. Cell phones used within the premises of the College must be programmed so that notification of incoming calls cannot be heard by others.

The use of personal or College owned **Visual Recording Devices** and/or **Audio Recording Devices** are generally not permitted on College premises. Students are further prohibited from recording conversations or lectures at the College or for arranging for or assisting others (students, employees, or non-employees) to do so.

Visual recording devices include, but are not limited to, cameras, video cameras, cellular camera phones, and/or any other device that is capable of taking, storing, or displaying a visual picture, whether in real time or time delayed. Audio recording devices include, but are not limited to, tape recorders, video cameras with audio components, and/or any other device that is capable of capturing, storing, or playing sounds.

Peirce College Electronic Communications Data, (which includes, but is not limited to electronic mail, web, PC or server-based data, created or owned by the College) must reside on College servers and not on desktops or laptops. In addition, College Electronic Communications Data cannot be backed up nor duplicated onto personal devices. Peirce College does not restrict access to, nor prohibit the use of personal mass storage devices for students. Examples include thumb drives and USB storage devices. Students must comply with the College's limitations on data storage of electronic communications. Failure to comply with such limitations will result in automatic warning and the eventual inability to use electronic communications until the student reduces data storage to acceptable thresholds.

Technology Usage

The term "Peirce College Technology" includes all College-leased, licensed, or owned hardware and software, all College websites, network systems, databases, any online or distance learning system used by the College, and all documentation relating to the foregoing. Activities covered by this policy include,

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but are not limited to, usage of College applications and the Internet; files, data, and printing; network and/or distance learning system usage; security and confidentiality of data; and passwords.

All Peirce College students must use Peirce College Technology only for course-related educational/research, and other specifically supported purposes. Minimal personal use of Peirce College Technology by students is permitted, provided that such use:

- is kept to a minimum.
- does not directly or indirectly interfere with the College's operation of Peirce College Technology.
- does not negatively impact other students, faculty, and Peirce College Technology (labs, library, classrooms, wireless, etc.).
- is not for political, romantic, for-profit, or other commercial purposes.

Peirce College students are not permitted to use any Peirce College employee's telephone or fax without direct and supervised approval of a manager or his/her designee. Long distance telephone and fax calls are paid for by the student when the bill is received by the College.

Under no circumstances may a Peirce College student login at or use a Peirce College employee's computer.

All students must protect their User Login from unauthorized use. Students are responsible for all activities on their User Login or that originate from their User Login.

A student may access only files, communications, and data that are created by the student, or that are publicly available, or to which the student has been given authorized access. **A student is prohibited from accessing, viewing, printing, imputing, deleting or changing any records including his or her own records or those regarding any other student(s) or concerning any Peirce College employee record** without proper authorization from the College. A student may not use or access another student's or employee's User Login, password, or email. A student cannot login at more than one computer at a time or allow his or her Login to be used on multiple computers.

All students must abide by all applicable laws and rules, including, but not limited to, copyright laws, software license terms, property rights, website, and Internet service provider terms of use, and privacy laws and policies.

Students must not install, download, or store any software or other electronic content on, or remove any software or data from, Peirce College's Technology or Electronic Communications Resources. Examples of software or other electronic content include, but are not limited to, music, games, screen savers, commercial shareware, and freeware software.

Students are prohibited from any activity that might be harmful to or compromise the security of Peirce College Technology or any information on Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications Resources, such as, creating or propagating viruses, Trojan horses, worms, or other invasive or destructive content or software; disrupting services; allowing unauthorized persons to access or use Peirce College Technology; or damaging files; and/or vandalizing any Peirce College Technology or making any attempt to harm or destroy data of another student, faculty, administrative, or staff member.

Students cannot register, sell, or lease College owned equipment or software for personal profit or benefit. Students shall not connect any non-College owned hardware or software to Peirce College

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Technology. This includes, but is not limited to, hubs, wireless routers, network cards, external peripheral or external storage, or recording devices (USB, CD, or DVD burners), home computers, PDA's, cell phones, iPods, or other handheld devices.

Students are prohibited from using Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications Resources to disparage, ridicule, or denigrate any person or group on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran's status, military status, or membership in any other group protected under local, state, or federal law or to access, post, download, transmit, copy, or distribute any material or message which disparages, ridicules, or denigrates any person or group in this manner.

Students are required to act in compliance with the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility policy at all times, including when using Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications. This includes when using Peirce College Technology to access and use social media networks. Students are prohibited from using Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications Resources to send and post messages that contain abusive objectionable language, that defame, bully, harass, or libel others or infringe the privacy rights of others. Students shall not view, download, copy, send, post, or access information that is illegal, obscene, or otherwise inconsistent with the College's nondiscrimination policy or policy prohibiting harassment (for example sexual images, sexist comments, racists messages, ethnic slurs and religious slurs).

Students shall not broadcast unsolicited messages, send unwanted mail, make harassing telephone calls, or send chain letters using Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications Resources.

Students are prohibited from using Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications Resources to access, archive, distribute, edit, or record adult- oriented websites or sexually explicit or suggestive materials.

Students are prohibited from using Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications Resources for personal or commercial profit. Examples include, but are not limited to, selling access to your User Login or to Peirce's systems or networks and using Peirce's resources to run a personal business.

Students are prohibited from engaging in any other activity that does not comply with the general principles presented above. When in doubt as to whether an activity is prohibited, students should contact their faculty member or the Associate Dean, Student Support Services.

Monitoring and Violations

Peirce College will seek to maintain system security and integrity, but students should not assume that their information in their accounts or on Peirce College Technology or Electronic Communications Resources they use is private. The College may access, inspect, search, block, monitor, review, record, archive, and/or disclose any usage conducted through information stored on or information transmitted through Peirce College Technology as well as Electronic Communications Resources, both in real time and after the fact, whether conducted at the College or remotely. In addition, the College reserves the right to access, inspect, search, block, monitor, review, record, archive, and/or disclose any files or other information created, stored, received, or transmitted through College computer or activity on network accounts. By using Peirce College Technology and Electronic Communications Resources, you hereby consent to the foregoing and waive any right to privacy in connection with the activities described in this policy.

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Any violations of this policy will result in appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action. For related information, please refer to the Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility policy, which appears in *SECTION I*.

The College reserves the right to seek compensation and/or indemnification from a student for damage(s) arising from violations of this policy. In addition, the College and/or third parties may pursue criminal and/or civil action for violations of law.

STUDENT EMAIL

Peirce College provides all students with an email address to facilitate communications between students and the College. When using email to contact Peirce faculty or staff, students are required to use the College-supplied email address.

The College will send all official email communications to students' College-supplied email address. Students are responsible for reviewing their email at their assigned email address on a frequent and consistent basis. Students should be aware that some email communications are time sensitive. Failure to review email in a timely manner does not absolve students from complying with the content of such communications.

Confidentiality regarding student records is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). All use of email, including use for sensitive or confidential information, will be consistent with FERPA. For this reason, Peirce will not and cannot respond to any email from a student not using the official College-supplied email address.

To ensure confidentiality, some details will only be available through a secure email or web portal. You'll receive an email with instructions to log in to <https://peircecollege.onelogin.com> using your username, password, and multifactor authentication. Once logged in, look for the tile labeled "my.peirce.edu" to access this confidential information.

For more information, please refer to the FERPA policy, which appears in *SECTION IX*.

STUDENT VERIFICATION AND PASSWORD POLICY

Peirce College uses a system of secure logins and passwords to ensure that students registering for the course are the students who participate and receive credit. There are no high-stakes exams in Peirce courses that comprise the majority of the grade. There are multiple means of assessments in courses, including discussions, projects, papers, quizzes, and exams.

Peirce requires that students use a login/password to access their online classes. All Peirce College student passwords should meet or exceed the following standards. Log in to <https://peircecollege.onelogin.com/>, and click on the My.Peirce tile, then Help for password requirements.

Password Protection

Users must maintain control of their password and protect it from inadvertent disclosure. It is the duty of all individuals to practice good password management procedures. All passwords are treated as sensitive Peirce College information. Passwords must not be inserted into plain-text email messages or other forms of electronic communication. Do not hint at the format of a password. Do not share Peirce College passwords with anyone. Do not write passwords down, post them and store them anywhere. Do not use the "Remember Password" feature of applications.

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Under the Acceptable Usage of Computer Systems and Facilities, Academic Honesty, and Code of Student Conduct and Responsibility policies, students are responsible for keeping their logins and passwords secure and upholding the integrity of their coursework. This practice assists the College in protecting students' privacy and ensure that grades are awarded to the appropriate students. Students should immediately report any misuse of student information to the Associate Dean, Student Support Services.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY PROCEDURES

Peirce College values the safety of its students, faculty, administration, and staff. In the event of an emergency, Peirce College will respond immediately and appropriately by using timely warning, lock down, shelter in place, and/or evacuation procedures as described below. Under the direction of designated College personnel emergency response procedures will be enacted. In the event that emergency procedures are enacted, the College will provide timely and ongoing updates to the College community as appropriate.

For your safety, access to campus is permitted only during the published hours of operation. No one is allowed to be in the suite by themselves. Access requires at least 2 (two) people, one of whom is a Primary Emergency Warden.

Emergency Wardens

In compliance with the building's rules, Peirce College has appointed Emergency Wardens to act as coordinators in the event of an emergency. All individuals must follow the instructions of the Emergency Wardens. See table below for designated **Emergency Wardens**.

Primary	Facilities Technician	During standard business hours and modified for classes and events
Primary	President's Council Members	If Facilities Technician is not on-site
Secondary	Faculty	During class hours
Secondary	Deans, AVPs, and Directors	Assist Primary Warden when on-site
Aides	Designated as needed	Provide assistant to individuals during an evacuation

Standard Emergency Protocols

For all emergencies, call 911 and provide the following information:

- Your full name
- Phone number you're calling from
- The office address of 1608 Walnut Street, Suite 1900, Philadelphia, PA 19103
- Nature and severity of the situation
- Exact location of hazard or event

Then, call building management at 215-732-1544 and provide the same information.

Additional Security Measures

The primary security measure for our suite is the locked elevator. The elevator will not automatically rise to the 19th floor, and only Primary Emergency Wardens have elevator fobs. The front desk in the building lobby has been instructed not to activate the elevator or escort anyone to our suite. Instructions for coming to our suite are provided to employees when reserving a room and to students at the beginning of an on-campus course. Anyone who comes to campus may be required to show a valid picture state identification, such as a driver's license, before being escorted by a College employee to our suite. While the locked elevator and other safety measures provide a level of security, nothing is failsafe. We all must remain vigilant, prepared and thoughtful about our actions.

Security Accountability

The College takes its duty of care very seriously and expects that all employees, students, contract workers, guests, contracted and volunteers will adhere to these procedures. Because of the life/safety implications, employees and contract workers who fail to follow these procedures will be referred to

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Human Resources for disciplinary action. If a volunteer violates this policy, the employee responsible for managing the volunteer will be referred to Human Resources, and the volunteer will no longer be permitted to work with the college. A guest who violates this policy will not be allowed at any college event in the future. Students will be referred to the Dean, Academic Advising & Registrar. Based on the nature and severity of the infraction, the College may refer the matter to law enforcement for further action.

Questions should be directed to Dr. Rita Toliver-Roberts, Ed. D, Provost, Peirce Operations, toliverr@lackawanna.edu; (215) 670-9265.

TIMELY WARNING

In the event that a situation arises, either on or off campus, that in the judgment of the College, constitutes an emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate, ongoing, or continuous threat to the health or safety of students, faculty, administration, and/or staff, tenants, a (campus wide) “timely warning” (emergency notification) will be issued to all individuals in our suite through a verbal announcement, and second, an email and emergency text. This warning will be issued through the College email system, student portal at <https://my.peirce.edu>, or other means deemed appropriate by the College. Alerts will also be sent out via text message for students who opt into the system. Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should inform the Primary Emergency Warden and, if the threat is imminent, follow the **Standard Emergency** Protocols (listed above).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For our campus, there are two responses to an emergency – shelter in place and evacuation.

Shelter in Place means finding a safe location indoors and staying there until you are given an “all clear” or told to evacuate. You may be asked to shelter in place because of an active shooter, intruder, weather, event, natural disaster, street incident or other hazard.

Evacuate means exiting the building using the stairs. You may be asked to evacuate due to a fire, intruder, active shooter, gas leak, natural disaster, building damage, or other hazard.

Special Needs Assistance - If you have a temporary or permanent disability that may impair your ability to respond in an emergency, please inform a Primary Emergency Warden when you are on campus. It is a good safety habit for everyone to always carry emergency health information and emergency contact numbers.

The Primary Emergency Warden in coordination with building management will determine the course of action and provide instructions.

At least semi-annually, the College will conduct testing of these emergency response procedures to practice and improve our protocols. The testing may be announced in advance or unannounced. These tests will be conducted in coordination with building management to ensure an integrated and cohesive plan.

ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

Peirce College maintains a strong commitment to programs that promote the health, well-being, and safety of its students and the security of its premises. Consistent with this commitment, the College has established this policy governing the unlawful use, consumption, possession, selling, distribution, dispensing, and manufacture of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs.

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Prohibited Conduct

With regard to alcoholic beverages, students of Peirce College are prohibited from the following:

- Using, consuming, possessing, selling, distributing, dispensing, or manufacturing alcoholic beverages while on the premises of the College and while off campus participating in any College-sponsored activity or event.
- Storing any alcoholic beverages in a locker, automobile, or other repository on College premises.
- Being under the influence of alcoholic beverages while on the premises of the College or while off campus participating in any College-sponsored activity or event.
- With regard to illegal drugs, Peirce College prohibits its students from the following:
- Using, consuming, possessing, selling, distributing, dispensing, or manufacturing illegal drugs while on the premises of the College and while off campus participating in any College-sponsored activity or event. For the purposes of this policy, the term illegal drugs includes the following:
 - Any chemical substance the manufacture, use, possession, or sale of which is prohibited by law as listed in Schedules I through V of Section 202 of the federal Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C. § 812) or any controlled substance the possession, manufacture, distributions, sale, or acquisition by misrepresentation of which is prohibited under the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act (35 Pa. C.S.A. 780-101 et seq.).
 - Any legally dispensable controlled substance, or prescription (medications available only as prescribed by a licensed physician) obtained through fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, subterfuge, forgery, or alteration of a prescription, or used by any individual other than the person for whom it was prescribed.
 - Any over-the-counter medication capable of impairing one's alertness and/or physical or mental reflexes that is taken for purposes of abuse or misuse.
 - Inhalants, such as chemical thinners, aerosol lacquers, and certain types of glues that can impair mental faculties and produce medical problems.
- Storing any illegal drug in a locker, automobile, or other repository on College premises.
- Being under the influence of illegal drugs while on the premises of the College or while off campus participating in any College-sponsored activity or event.

In addition, members of the College community (including former students or graduates) while on College premises or while off campus participating in any College-sponsored activity or event are expected to conduct themselves in compliance with this policy as well as conduct themselves in a manner in which they do not cause harm to themselves or others, and that they neither break laws nor contribute to the negligence of others. The College reserves the right to revoke College privileges in such circumstances.

Penalties

A student found to be in violation of any provisions of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct, which may range from required counseling to disciplinary warnings to suspension or expulsion.

In addition, a student may be subject to criminal prosecution under applicable federal, state, and local laws. A description of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol is available within this section of the Catalog as well as on the website of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board: <http://www.lcb.state.pa.us>.

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Further, any alcoholic beverages found on College premises will be confiscated and destroyed, and any illegal drugs found on College premises will be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

If the College reasonably suspects a student is involved with alcohol or illegal drugs in violation of this policy, the student may be required to submit to drugs and/or alcohol testing. A student's failure to submit to the requested testing is a violation of this policy and will be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion. However, such test need not be administered when Peirce College has independent proof that this policy has been violated. If the College reasonably suspects that a student is involved with alcohol or illegal drugs in violation of this policy, the student may be required to submit to a search of his or her clothing, belongings, and/or possessions, including his or her vehicle, if it is parked on College premises. A student's refusal to submit to a search under these circumstances may also subject the student to disciplinary action.

For information on financial aid penalties for drug violations, please refer to the Federal and State Aid Penalties policy.

Peirce College's Commitment to Health Education, Counseling, and Treatment

The College is committed to providing educational programs and counseling to students or alumni concerning the risks associated with alcohol and illegal drug use and/or abuse. Information on the health risks associated with alcohol and drug use and abuse are available at Mary W. Walker '33 Center for Academic Excellence (215-670-9251) and within this section.

Students and alumni in need of confidential drug or alcohol counseling may find out about local programs and resources by contacting a counselor in the Mary W. Walker '33 Center for Academic Excellence (215-670-9251) or by referring to the list of treatment centers later in this section. In addition, the College is committed to providing every student or graduate with alcohol and drug education from multiple resources during student orientation programs. Additionally, the Mary W. Walker '33 Center for Academic Excellence (215-670-9251) will provide resources and programs that promote drug and alcohol awareness.

Annual Review

The following departments will be represented on the College's Drug and Alcohol Policy Review Team: Academic Advancement, Office of Student Financial Services, Human Resources, and the Mary W. Walker '33 Center for Academic Excellence. The Team will review this policy annually to determine its effectiveness and recommend any necessary changes.

ALCOHOL, DRUG USE, AND LEGAL SANCTIONS

The following is a summary of significant legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for the unlawful possession or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol. In addition, any student who is convicted under state or federal law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance will be ineligible for federal student financial aid for specific periods of time, depending upon the nature and number of the offense(s).

Alcohol

The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code as well as the Pennsylvania Crimes Code provides penalties pertaining to the possession and distribution of alcohol. Prohibitions include, among other things the following:

The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, 75 Pa. C.S.A. § 3101 et seq.

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- Pennsylvania has set .08% Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) as the legal limit for driving under the influence convictions.
- This law prohibits, among other things, a driver in any vehicle from consuming any controlled substance or having an open container of alcohol in the vehicle while the vehicle is in operation on any highway in Pennsylvania. Violations under this law range from requires fines to imprisonment as well as revocation of driving privileges.

The Pennsylvania Crimes Code, 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 5505 et seq.

- **Public Drunkenness** — A person is prohibited from appearing in public manifestly under the influence of alcohol to the degree that he/she may endanger himself/herself or other persons or property or annoy other persons in the vicinity. Penalties range from a fine of up to \$300 to imprisonment for up to 90 days.
- **Misrepresentation of Age** — Individuals are prohibited from misrepresenting one's age knowingly and falsely, in order to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages. Penalties also include suspension of license from 90 days to two years. It is also a crime to knowingly, willfully, and falsely to represent that another is of legal age to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages. Penalty is a minimum fine of \$300 and imprisonment for up to one year.
- **Purchase, Consumption, Possession, or Transportation of Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages by a Minor** — Minors are prohibited from the attempt to purchase, consume, possesses, or knowingly transport such beverages. Penalties range from fines of up to \$300, imprisonment of up to 90 days, and license suspension of 90 days for first offenses; penalties for three or more offenses are up to \$500 in fines, imprisonment of up to one year, license suspension for up to two years.
- **Prohibited Sale to Minors** — It is a crime to intentionally and knowingly sell, furnish, or purchase with intent to sell or furnish, any liquor, malt, or brewed beverages to minors. Penalty for a first violation is \$1,000; \$2,500 for each subsequent violation; and imprisonment for up to one year for any violation.
- **False Identification Cards** — It is a crime to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly to manufacture, make, alter, sell, or attempt to sell an identification card falsely representing the identity, birth date, or age of another. Minimum fine is \$1,000 for first violation; \$2,500 for subsequent violations; and imprisonment for up to two year for any violation. It is also a crime to possess a false identification card or for a minor to obtain or attempt to obtain liquor or malt or brewed beverages by using a false identification card.

Supplemental information may also be found at the website for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, <https://www.lcb.pa.gov/> .

Illegal Drugs

Numerous laws pertain to the distribution and possession of illegal drugs. These include the following:

- **The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act**, 35 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 780 - 101 et seq., prohibits, among other things, the manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession of any controlled substance. Penalties under the Act range in severity depending on the act committed and the controlled substance involved. First time violators may be sentenced to imprisonment for up to one year, ordered to pay a fine up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both. Repeat

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offenders may be sentenced to imprisonment for up to three years, ordered to pay a fine up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), or both.

- **The Pharmacy Act, 63 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 390-8**, prohibits any person from, among other things, procuring or attempting to procure any drug through fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, subterfuge, by forgery or alteration of a material fact, or by the use of a false statement in any prescription. Any person who violates the Act may be sentenced to imprisonment for up to one year, ordered to pay a fine up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both. For each subsequent offense, an individual may be sentenced to imprisonment for up to three years, ordered to pay a fine up to (\$15,000), or both.
- **The Federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.**, prohibits, among other things, the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, or possession, with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, of a controlled substance. Penalties under the Act range in severity depending on the type and quantity of the controlled substance involved.

The maximum penalties for individuals include life imprisonment, a fine of four million dollars (\$4,000,000), as well as possible additional penalties. Penalties are increased for repeat offenders. Double penalties apply when the violation of the law takes place within one thousand feet of the property of a school or college. The penalty for simple possession is a sentence of a term of imprisonment for up to one year, a fine up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

Alcohol

Long Term Health Risks	Immediate Effects	Social Effects
Hepatitis or cirrhosis of the liver	Decreased respiration rate	Decreased academic and professional productivity
High blood pressure	Impaired judgment	Increased likelihood of automobile accidents
Stroke	Loss of coordination	Difficulty maintaining relationships
Ulcers and inflammation of the stomach	Risk of asphyxiation due to vomiting	Impaired judgment in public and social situations
Cancer, including breast cancer and those of the head and neck		
Birth defects to infants of pregnant women		

For more information about alcohol abuse and prevention, please visit <http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/>.

Marijuana

Long Term Health Risks	Immediate Effects
Heavy cough	Increased heart rate
Lung infections	Short term memory loss
Respiratory tract and lung cancer	Impaired judgment
Decreased immuno response	Loss of coordination
Heart attack	

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Heroin

Long Term Health Risks	Immediate Effects
Addiction	Decreased respiration
Arthritis	Nausea
Infection of the heart valves	Confusion
Collapsed veins	Decreased sensation of physical pain
Contraction of infectious disease such as hepatitis or AIDS	

Cocaine

Long Term Health Risks	Immediate Effects
Irregular heartbeat	Increased energy
Increased likelihood of heart attack	Decreased appetite
Strokes	Increased body temperature
Seizures	Dilated pupils
Nausea	Increased heart rate
Respiratory infections and failure	
Paranoia	
Auditory hallucinations	

Hallucinogens and Dissociative Drugs

Long Term Health Risks	Immediate Effects
Abnormal heartbeat	Intense mood swings
Decreased breathing rate	Separation from reality
Withdrawal symptoms	Increased appetite
Psychotic episodes long after use	Increased heart rate
	Nausea
	Sweating
	Dizziness
	Numbness
	Tremors
	Muscle contractions

Inhalants

Long Term Health Risks	Immediate Effects
Hearing loss	Increased heart rate
Spasms or neuropathy	Feeling of warmth
Bone marrow damage	Muscle weakness
Brain damage	Impaired judgment
Damage to the central nervous system	Agitation
Kidney failure	Excitability
Depression	Lowering of inhibitions
Muscle weakness	Loss of sensation
	Lack of coordination

For more information about drug abuse and prevention, please visit <http://www.drugabuse.gov>.

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Additional Drug and Alcohol Prevention Resources

The Pennsylvania Department of Health refers people to the Network of Drug and Alcohol Single County Authorities (SCA), which is responsible for coordinating all alcohol and other drug prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts. **The Philadelphia SCA** gives the following contact information for people seeking treatment for Drug & Alcohol abuse:

- People on medical assistance from the state of PA, call 1-888-545-2600
- People without medical assistance, call 215-546-1200
- People with private insurance should contact their insurer for information.

For information about local self-help meetings, contact:

- Alcoholics Anonymous call 215-923-7900
- Adult Children of Alcoholics (www.adultchildren.org)
- Al-Non-Alateen (<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>) call 215-222-5244 (for family and friends of alcoholics)
- Nar-Anon (www.na.org) call 215-629-6757
- Cocaine Anonymous (www.ca.org)

For Information about National Resources, contact:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (<https://aa.org/>)
- Narcotics Anonymous (<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>)
- Opioid Assistance (<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/index.html>)

Local substance abuse treatment centers include:

Location	Services Provided
Family Center of Thomas Jefferson University Specialized Program for Pregnant Women 215-955-8577 Website: https://sobernation.com/listing/family-center-of-thomas-jefferson-univ-specialized-program-for-preg-women-philadelphia-pa/	• Primary Focus: Substance abuse treatment services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment, Methadone/LAAM Maintenance • Type of Care: Outpatient • Special Programs/Groups: Persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, persons with HIV/AIDS, Pregnant/postpartum women, women • Forms of Payment Accepted: Self payment, Medicaid, Medicare, private health insurance • Payment Assistance: Payment assistance • Special Language Services: Spanish
Consortium 26 S. 40th Street Philadelphia, PA 19104 215-596-8000 Website: www.consortium-inc.org	• Primary Focus: Substance abuse treatment services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment • Type of Care: Outpatient • Special Programs/Groups: Women • Forms of Payment Accepted: Self payment, Medicaid, Medicare
Horizon House Outpatient Substance Abuse Program 120 South 30th Street, 5th Floor	• Primary Focus: Substance abuse treatment services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment

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Philadelphia, PA 19104 215-386-5128 extension-524 Intake: 215-386-5128 Website: http://www.hhinc.org/	• Type of Care: Outpatient • Forms of Payment Accepted: Self payment, Medicaid
Jefferson Outreach Drug/Alcohol Program 833 Chestnut Street, 2nd Floor Suite 210-E Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-955-8856 Website: https://hospitals.jefferson.edu/diseases-and-conditions/substance-abuse.html	• Primary Focus: Substance abuse treatment services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment • Type of Care: Outpatient • Special Programs/Groups: Persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, persons with HIV/AIDS, Gay and lesbian, seniors/older adults, pregnant/postpartum women • Forms of Payment Accepted: Self payment • Payment Assistance: Sliding fee scale (fee is based on income and other factors)
John F Kennedy Community Mental Health Center Walk In Clinic 112 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19102 215-568-0860 Website: http://www.jfkbbhc.org/	• Primary Focus: Substance abuse treatment services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment • Type of Care: Outpatient • Special Programs/Groups: Adolescents, persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, women, men, criminal justice clients • Forms of Payment Accepted: Self payment, Medicaid, Medicare, private health insurance • Payment Assistance: Sliding fee scale (fee is based on income and other factors), payment assistance • Special Language Services: Spanish
Northeast Treatment Centers Spring Garden Counseling Center 499 N. 5th Street, Suite B and C Philadelphia, PA 19123 215-451-7000 Website: www.netcenters.org	• Primary Focus: Substance abuse treatment services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment • Type of Care: Outpatient • Special Programs/Groups: Persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, women, men, criminal justice clients • Forms of Payment Accepted: Self payment, Medicaid, Medicare, private health insurance • Payment Assistance: Sliding fee scale (fee is based on income and other factors)
Rehab After Work 1420 Walnut Street Suite 500 Philadelphia, PA 19102 610-644-6464 Website: http://www.rehabafterwork.com	• Primary Focus: Substance abuse treatment services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment • Type of Care: Outpatient • Special Programs/Groups: Adolescents, DUI/DWI offenders • Forms of Payment Accepted: Self payment, private health insurance

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	• Special Language Services: French, German
Wedge Medical Center Substance Abuse Services 2009 South Broad Street Philadelphia PA 19148 Phone: 215-271-2200 Website: http://www.wedgepc.com/	• Primary Focus: Mental health and substance abuse services • Services Provided: Substance abuse treatment • Type of Care: Outpatient, partial hospitalization/day treatment • Special Programs/Groups: Persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, persons with HIV/AIDS, women, men, DUI/DWI offenders, criminal justice clients • Payment Accepted: Self payment, private health insurance • Payment Assistance: Sliding fee scale based on income and other factors • Special Language Services: Spanish

Other resources include:

Women for Sobriety, Inc.

215-536-8026

Website: www.womenforsobriety.org

Women for Sobriety, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women overcome alcoholism and other addictions. Our "New Life" program helps achieve sobriety and sustain ongoing recovery.

HOMELESS RESOURCES

Covenant House Pennsylvania

www.covenanthousepa.org or 215-951-5411

- For homeless youth

Emergency Rental Assistance for Philadelphia County

Office of Supportive Housing

MSB-10th Floor, 1401 JFK BLVD

Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-686-7177

Multi-Color Pearls

<http://www.multicolorpearls.org/home.html>

Resources for Human Development

www.rhd.org or 215-849-7360

- For single mothers over 21 and their children under 18

WELLNESS SERVICES

Peirce College offers a free counseling service to enrolled students via UWILL. Students can choose video, phone, or messaging as a means of meeting with a counselor. Students can access the UWILL portal from here: https://my.peirce.edu/ICS/Campus_Life/. For more information, contact the Associate Dean, Student Support Services.

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CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING POLICY

Peirce College encourages anyone who is the victim or witness to any crime to report the incident to the local police by dialing 911 promptly. Because police reports are public records under the purposes of inclusion in the annual disclosure of crime statistics are published by October 1st of each year. Through the use of EthicsPoint, the College provided confidential toll-free hotline access to faculty, staff and actively enrolled students. Through EthicsPoint all students, faculty, and staff are provided confidential reporting.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

All current students, alumni, officers, employees, tenants, and visitors are required to produce proper valid state or federal photo identification upon request from Security or a College official upon entering any Peirce facility. Random identification checks may be made for the safety of the campus community.

NON-VIOLENCE

Although the College cannot eliminate the possibility that violence or other troubling disturbances may occur, Peirce College, with the help of the College community, can minimize the possibility that these types of events will happen. The College has established guidelines to minimize exposure to acts and threats of violence.

All current students, officers, faculty members, managers, supervisors, employees, alumni, tenants, and visitors (including, but not limited to, contractors and vendors) are issued Peirce College identification cards for entering campus buildings and events, as well as to access College services. All College students, officers, faculty members, managers, supervisors, employees, alumni, tenants, and visitors may be required to produce proper photo identification upon request from a College official when on College premises. Periodic identification checks may be made for the safety of the campus community.

College premises includes all buildings within which the College provides or leases or rents space educational and related student services and/or conducts its business operations, whether owned, leased, or provided without charge for use; the grounds and parking areas adjacent to these buildings; and vehicles owned or leased by Peirce College.

All students, as well as all officers, faculty members, managers, supervisors, employees, alumni, tenants, visitors, contractors, vendors, and suppliers of Peirce College, are prohibited from the following:

- **Possessing or concealing a weapon while on the premises of the College locations or while participating in any off-campus College-sponsored activity or event.** For the purposes of this policy, a weapon is defined to include guns, rifles, fireworks, firearms, knives, explosives, bombs, including recreational and non-recreational fireworks, and any and all other similar items. In the case of guns, rifles, and “fireworks” and other firearms, it is irrelevant and no defense that the gun, rifle, and “fireworks” and other firearms is not loaded and/or that the person in possession of the firearms or “fireworks” has a license to carry such objects.

Further, you may not convert to a weapon any instrument, tool, or other item regularly used at the College, and such a conversion constitutes a violation of this rule. This policy will be enforced regardless of whether the weapon is in any way licensed. Any weapon, firearm, or fireworks discovered on Peirce College property or at a Peirce College off-campus activity will be promptly confiscated and turned over to the local Police Department. Having a weapons permit does not give you the right to possess or conceal any type of weapon on campus or at an off-campus College-sponsored activity or event at any time.

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- **Threatening to harm any student, officer, faculty member, manager, supervisor, employee, graduate, tenant, or visitor of the College or any other person doing business with and/or associated with the College.** Such threats may be written or oral, expressed, or implied. The fact that a threatening comment may have been made “in jest” is no defense to behavior prohibited by this policy.
- **Physically assaulting, attacking, or otherwise intentionally causing injury to any student, officer, faculty member, manager, supervisor, employee, graduate, tenant, or visitor of the College or any other person doing business with and/or associated with the College.** As a narrow exception to this rule, an individual may use physical force in self-defense under circumstances in which he/she cannot withdraw safely from a dangerous or threatening situation without the use of such force.
- **Sexually assaulting any student, officer, faculty member, manager, supervisor, employee, graduate, tenant, or visitor of the College or any other person doing business with and/or associated with the College.** For related information, please refer to the Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention, and Response policy, which appears in *SECTION X*.
- **Threatening to cause damage to property belonging to the College, to any student, officer, faculty member, manager, supervisor, employee, graduate, tenant, or visitor of the College, or to any other person doing business with and/or associated with the College.** Again, the fact that a threatening comment may have been made “in jest” is no defense.
- **Intentionally damaging or destroying property belonging to the College, to any student, officer, faculty member, manager, supervisor, employee, graduate, tenant, or visitors of the College, or to any other person doing business with and/or associated with the College, regardless of when or where this prohibited behavior occurs.**

The prohibitions set forth above apply to actions directed not only toward students, officers, faculty members, managers, supervisors, employees, tenants, visitors, and alumni of the College, as well as all other persons doing business with and/or associated with the College, but also toward persons associated with these individuals (for example, members of a student’s or employee’s family). Any student who violates any of the prohibitions set forth above, will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Disciplinary System. Violations may be punishable by any of the following penalties: expulsion, suspension, monetary penalty, mandatory counseling, community work, required education program, or other penalties deemed appropriate by the College. In addition, students should be aware that violations may result in the reporting of incident to police or other authorities as well as action. Alumni found in violation of any provisions of this policy may have their alumni privileges revoked.

Students should report immediately to any College official any violation of this Policy or other event that results in a dangerous or threatening situation. For any immediate threats to safety, students should call 911.

Because the responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of the College’s environment is something that is shared, the College needs to be alerted to potential problems. Students should speak immediately with faculty during class, academic advisor, the Associate Dean of Student Support Services and/or any College official, if any of the following happens:

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Students feel intimidated or threatened, verbally or physically, by a fellow student, officer, faculty member, manager, supervisor, employee, graduate, tenant, or visitors of the College, or any person doing business with or associated with the College.
- Students feel intimidated or threatened, verbally or physically, by an individual independent of your relationship with the College but feel that this individual may look for you at the College.
- Students are aware of the presence on or near our premises of an individual who they believe has no appropriate reason for being there.
- Students are aware of any other action, situation, or occurrence in which they believe may threaten personal safety or the well-being of others.
- Students have ideas as to ways to make the College's environment safer.

The College will disclose information you have reported and which is related to the situations described above to the extent necessary to conduct an adequate investigation and/or to take appropriate corrective measures. Moreover, the College prohibits retaliation against a student who, in good faith, registers a complaint or brings such information to the College's attention.

Additional safety measures:

- Do not leave valuables in plain view, since the College is not responsible for personal items you bring onto our premises.
- Do not challenge or confront a hostile or angry person. Attempt to defuse the situation and to remove yourself from the situation; then, notify designated College personnel.

REPORTING POLICY VIOLATIONS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

As a member of the Peirce College community, students, and tenants are responsible for reporting violations of the College's safety and security policies as soon as they become aware of such violations. In the event of emergency, students should call 911.

Students and tenants should report immediately to a college official any violation of policy or other event that results in a dangerous or threatening situation. Students and tenants should report any violation of policy which does not result in a dangerous or threatening situation, but which occurs during a class, to the faculty member responsible for the class, or to the Associate Dean, Student Support Services, or any college official. Similarly, if, while in a supervised department setting, students become aware of a policy violation that does not result in a dangerous or threatening situation, he/she should report the violation to the department supervisor or to the Associate Dean, Student Support Services, or a college official.

SECURITY BACKGROUND SEARCHES

The College and its affiliated partners at their discretion, may require multi-state criminal background checks, State Child Protective Registry Checks, and FBI fingerprinting checks at the College's expense and/or its affiliated partners expense in order to meet state requirements for attending or working in certain States.

SECURITY SEARCHES

To protect our students, tenants, and the College community, the College reserves the right to search at any time any person or property on the College's premises, including, but not limited to a student's, tenant's, visitor's, contractor's personal possessions, handbag, back pack, brief case, packages, belongings, files or any other bag or container that the College deems necessary to search.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

In addition, the College reserves the right to monitor, access, search, block, copy, review, and disclose at any time (both in real time and after the fact) messages or documents created, sent, stored, or received, as well as any websites visited on (and, for each, regardless of whether accessed remotely or on-premises), any the College's communication systems, including, but not limited to:

- Telephone system
- Fax machines
- Computer software and hardware
- Email system
- Voicemail system
- Internet Server

By using the College's communication systems (with respect to which you have no expectation of privacy), individuals consent to the College's monitoring, accessing, searching, blocking, copying, reviewing and disclosing, both in real time and after the fact, any documents or messages which they create, send, store, or receive, as well as websites visited on (and, for each, regardless of whether accessed remotely or on-premises), the College's communications systems.

In addition, the College reserves the right to view, record, playback, and print-recorded images from the College security surveillance system to be used for investigative and/or informational purposes. The College also reserves the right to hand search individuals entering the building or use mechanical devices such as magnetometers and X-ray equipment for heightened screening.

Further, random unannounced searches are the sole discretion of the College. Anyone refusing to have their person or property searched will either be escorted out of the building or not be permitted to enter the building. Furthermore, anyone who fails to submit to a search, as required, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College. For purposes of this Policy, the College's premises include all College owned or leased facilities, buildings, parking areas, campus, and surrounding grounds, and motor vehicles.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Act and the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the College is required to issue information advising the campus community where law enforcement information provided by a State concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already obligated to register in a State to provide notice to each institution of higher education in that State at which the person is employed, carries a vocation, or is a student.

Students and employees of Peirce College seeking law enforcement agency information concerning registered sex offenders can visit www.pameganslaw.state.pa.us, an online listing established by the Pennsylvania State Police to provide timely information to the public on Sexually Violent Predators residing in the Commonwealth.

Students and employees may also refer to sex offender registries for Delaware and New Jersey: Delaware: <https://sexoffender.dsp.delaware.gov/>, New Jersey: <https://www.njsp.org/sex-offender-registry/index.shtml>

Unlawful use of the information for purposes of intimidating or harassing another is prohibited. If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, please contact your local child protective services office

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

or local law enforcement agency. Many States have a toll-free number to report suspected child abuse or neglect. To find out where to call, visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/reporting/how/>

HAZING

Peirce College has no tolerance for hazing. Hazing is any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group, whether on campus or off campus, that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them mentally or physically regardless of a person's willingness to participate. Hazing is a violation of Pennsylvania law.

Under the Timothy J. Piazza Anti-Hazing Law, hazing is defined as the following:

A person commits the offense of hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization that causes, coerces, or forces a minor or student to do any of the following:

- (1) Violate Federal or State criminal law.
- (2) Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance, which subjects the minor or student to a risk of emotional or physical harm.
- (3) Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements.
- (4) Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment.
- (5) Endure brutality of a sexual nature.
- (6) Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student.

Hazing is a direct violation of the Peirce College Student Code of Conduct policy and therefore, individuals directly, indirectly, or willingly participating in hazing are subject to disciplinary action, leading up to and including expulsion from the College. Any incidents of hazing may be reported to any Peirce College official.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Peirce College does not provide student health services on campus. Students in need of medical attention are encouraged to contact their primary care physician or their local community health services department, nearby Urgent Care location, or hospital. In the event of a medical emergency, students should call 911.

CONSUMER INFORMATION

The College is required by the U.S. Department of Education to provide consumer information to prospective students, current students, and alumni. The consumer information will provide students with the information necessary for choosing appropriate academic programs and for fully understanding the responsibility of loan repayment.

- Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Campus Security/Clery Act) requires an Annual Security Report disclosing the College's security policies (including emergency response and evacuation procedures and timely warnings) and reporting of crime statistics.
- The Student Right-to-Know Act requires disclosure of information on graduation, completion, retention and transfer-out rates of certificate or degree-seeking first-time full-time undergraduate students.
- Financial Aid Information:
 - description of all the federal, state, local, private, and institutional need-based and non-need-based student financial assistance programs available to students
 - how students apply for aid and how eligibility is determined
 - criteria for selecting recipients from the group of eligible applicants
 - criteria for determining the amount of a student's award
 - how and when financial aid will be disbursed
 - rights and responsibilities of students receiving aid
 - how the school provides for Pell-eligible students to obtain or purchase required books and supplies by the seventh day of a payment period and how the students may opt out
 - terms and conditions of any employment that is part of the financial aid package
 - terms of, schedules for, and the necessity of loan repayment and required loan exit counseling
 - criteria for measuring satisfactory academic progress, and how a student who has failed to maintain satisfactory progress may reestablish eligibility for federal financial aid
 - costs of attendance: the costs of attending the school (tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and applicable transportation costs, such as commuting), and any additional costs of the program in which the student is enrolled or has expressed an interest
 - who to contact for information on student financial assistance and for general school issues
 - withdrawal from the College: a statement of the requirements for the return of Federal Student Aid (FSA) program funds when a student withdraws from the College, information about any refund policy with which the College must comply, and the requirements for officially withdrawing from the College
 - entrance and exit counseling
- General Information about Peirce College
 - accreditation and licensing: the names of associations, agencies, and/or governmental bodies that accredit, approve, or license Peirce College and its programs, and the procedures by which a student may receive a copy for review of the College's accreditation, licensure, or approval
 - degree and certificate programs and training, and other education offered
 - services and special facilities for students with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities
 - voter registration information
 - terms and conditions under which students receiving federal education loans may obtain deferments
 - instructional, laboratory, and other physical plant facilities associated with the academic programs
 - a list of the faculty and other instructional personnel

CONSUMER INFORMATION

- any plans by the school to improve academic programs, upon a determination by the school that such a plan exists
- textbook information
- student body diversity information
- job placement and type of employment information on graduates
- graduate and professional education information on bachelor degree graduates
- description of any written agreements the College has entered into
- net price calculator
- The College Financial Plan
- contact information for filing complaints with the College's accreditors, state approval or licensing entities
- established criteria the school uses regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution, and a list of postsecondary schools with which the school has established an articulation agreement
- penalties and institutional policies on copyright infringement
- Student Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For related information, please refer to the FERPA policy.
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Information. For related information, please refer to the Campus Safety and Security policy.
- IRS Form 1098-T an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirement.

For more information, please go to <https://www.peirce.edu/about-peirce/additional-resources/consumer-information> to find links to other departmental sites that disclose specific information.

CREDIT CARD MARKETING POLICY

According to the Credit Card Accountability and Disclosure Act of 2009, implemented by the Federal Reserve Board, colleges and universities must adopt a policy that regulates credit card marketing on college campuses. As a result, Peirce College has implemented the following policies and procedures to ensure compliance with this regulation:

1. Credit card marketers must be first approved by the Vice President, Finance & Administration with a confirmed agreement before any marketing takes place via mail, email, on campus, or other means deemed appropriate.
2. Credit card marketers may be limited to the amount of time they can market credit card information.
3. Credit card marketers may be limited to specific areas of the campus.
4. Credit card marketers are prohibited from offering tangible items (e.g., gifts, coupons, gift cards, etc.) to any students in exchange for a student applying for or opening a credit card account if such an offer is made on campus, near the campus, or at an event sponsored or related to the College.
5. Credit card marketers must provide credit card debt education literature that the College can provide to students and/or alumni. Violation of the credit card marketing policy may result in breach of a credit card agreement.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

NONDISCRIMINATION

Peirce College is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that all educational and employment decisions are based on individuals' abilities and qualifications. Peirce College does not discriminate in its educational programs, employment, admissions or any activities on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, pregnancy, sex/gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, marital or family status, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law, including protections for those opposing discrimination or participating in any grievance process on campus, with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or other human rights agencies.

Consistent with this principle, Peirce College will comply with state and federal laws such as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act or other applicable state law, Title IX, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Ethnic Intimidation Act of 1982 (P.L. 537-154) and other laws that prohibit discrimination.

As a recipient of federal financial assistance for education activities, Peirce College complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of the categories stated above, including in admissions and employment. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and this Policy.

This policy covers nondiscrimination in both employment and access to educational opportunities. Therefore, any member of the College community whose acts deny, deprive, or limit the educational or employment access, benefits and/or opportunities of any member of the College community, guest, or visitor on the basis of that person's actual or perceived membership in the protected classes listed above is in violation of the College's policy on nondiscrimination.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Kelly Schneider, Esq.
Title IX Coordinator
Healey Hall Room 237
(570) 961-7890
SchneiderK@lackawanna.edu

Abbey Judge, Ed.D.
Affirmative Action Officer/
Director of Pre-College
Programs/Deputy Title IX
Coordinator
Healey Hall Room 223
(570) 955-1516
JudgeA@lackawanna.edu

Gopu Kiron, Ed.D.
Affirmative Action Officer/
Associate Dean of eLearning
& Information Literacy
Seeley Hall
(570) 504-7929
KironG@lackawanna.edu

Additional information regarding Title IX requirements and how to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights: Office of Civil Rights at <https://www2.ed.gov>, 1 (800) 421-3481. Philadelphia Office: Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 515, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3323. Telephone: (215) 656-8541 or Email: OCR.Philadelphia@ed.gov.

FINANCIAL AID

FINANCIAL AID: WHERE DO I BEGIN?

The Federal Government's Department of Education created a document called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA for short. This application is the same no matter what college or university you attend. Every year you think you will attend a college or university, you need to complete the FAFSA to see what funding you might be eligible to receive. Students who would like to determine their eligibility for financial aid resources can submit a FAFSA. The fastest way to complete the FAFSA is online at studentaid.gov.

Step 1: Create an FSA ID (Student and Parents (if applicable). See below for more information regarding Your FSA ID.

Step 2: Start the FAFSA - studentaid.gov.

Step 3: The FAFSA itself is broken into several sections. Complete each of the sections carefully, making sure that the information is complete and accurate.

Step 4: Ensure you have completed your application: Sign and submit and confirm your submission.

Step 5: It will take 3-5 business days for your application to process. After you have enrolled, monitor your email for additional communications from Student Financial Services regarding your application and the next steps you need to take.

What you will need to complete your FAFSA

You must have the following items handy when you file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Watch How to Fill out the [FAFSA video](#).

1. Your FSA ID (see below for more information)
2. Demographic information: social security number or your Alien Registration number (For non-U.S. citizens), date of birth, address, email, gender, telephone number, driver's license number (if the student has a driver's license), marital status (including dates), citizenship status, education history and interest in work-study
3. **Pierce College School Code: 003309**
4. Your tax return and W2s if you worked or received any federal benefits during the prior, prior year
5. Your parent(s) social security number (if applicable)
6. Your parents' tax return and W2s if they worked or received any federal benefits during the prior, prior year (if applicable)

Your FSA ID

If you have never filed a FAFSA before in your name, you will need a FSA ID. The FSA ID is your username and password. Your FSA ID confirms your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically sign Federal Student Aid documents. If you do not already have a FSA ID, you can create one by visiting studentaid.gov.

If you've already created a FSA ID but need to recover your username and password, visit studentaid.gov and select the "Manage my FSA ID" tab and click the "Forgot my username" or "Forgot my password" links.

Need assistance in creating or resetting your FSA ID? Visit [How to Create Your Account Username and Password \(FSA ID\)](#) to find videos that will guide you through creating or resetting your username and password.

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Additional information

- To view informational videos about Federal Student Aid and the FAFSA at [How to Create Your Account Username and Password \(FSA ID\)](#)
- If you have unanswered questions about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, visit [FAFSA Help](#) to get in-depth information about the FAFSA form and what to expect after you submit your application.
- We always encourage you to apply for scholarships available through Peirce College at [Peirce Scholarships](#) or through private organizations at [Finaid.org](#)

If you need additional assistance at Peirce College, Student Financial Services will work with you in helping you complete your FAFSA online and we are here to answer any questions while you are filling out the application. Call 1-800-433-3243 to reach the Department of Education's helpline or contact Student Financial Services at 215-670-9600 or at sfs@peirce.edu.

WHEN ARE FORMS DUE?

Federal Deadlines

The Department of Education will allow you to file your 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid on and after October 1, 2025 until June 30, 2027.

State of Pennsylvania Deadlines

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Agency Association (PHEAA) (or PA State Grant Program as it is also known) offers eligible Pennsylvania residents the opportunity to apply for the state grant. A grant is money that does not have to be repaid back to the PA State Grant Program. PHEAA suggests that students and families file the FAFSA by May 1 each year as the Free Application for Federal Student

Aid (FAFSA) is communicated to PHEAA of students' Pennsylvania resident status. These funds are limited and if you miss the deadline, you may not receive a grant for the current award year. To review frequently asked questions and learn more, go to <https://www.pheaa.org/grants/state-grant-program/state-grant-faq.shtml>.

Peirce's Priority Deadline

Student Financial Services prioritizes funding resources for students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by May 1st. Funding resources are limited and often run out early in the year.

What does an academic year look like at Peirce?

Peirce College is a Scheduled Academic Year (SAY)/ Borrower Base (BBAY) institution that operates on a traditional calendar and will follow the guidelines under SAY/BBAY1. SAY must meet the FSA requirements for an academic year (as defined in Volume 3, Chapter 1 of the FSA Handbook), there is no minimum number of weeks required for a summer term; however, the term must be considered academically equivalent to a standard term. This means the credit received for coursework completed in the summer is equivalent to credit for coursework completed during a term normally considered a part of the school's academic year.

For Direct Loans purposes, guidance under BBAY 1 for credit-hour programs with SAY (as defined in Volume 8, Chapter 6 of the FSA Handbook) further explains the treatment of a shorter summer term for standard-term that use a scheduled academic year (SAY):

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Like a SAY, a BBAY 1 must meet the minimum FSA requirements for an academic year. However, a BBAY 1 that includes a summer term may include fewer than 30 weeks of instructional time or fewer credit hours than the minimum number required for an SAY. This is because a summer term may be shorter than a standard term in an SAY, but is recognized as academically equivalent to a standard term when used as one of the terms in a BBAY 1 (this exception applies only to a BBAY 1 used as an alternative for a program with an SAY).

GRADUATE LOAN CERTIFICATIONS

If you choose to borrow through the Federal Government's loan programs, please note that you must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and loan entrance counseling online at studentaid.gov. You will need to set aside some time (about 30 minutes) to complete both processes. If you have completed the MPN and entrance counseling electronically within the past 5 years, please let the Office of Student Financial Services know and we will retrieve them electronically. The amount of loan money students can borrow depends on their enrollment level at the College.

Federal direct loans are a major source of financial aid for many college students. All loans, including federal direct loans, represent debts that must be repaid; however, most federal direct loans do not go into repayment until 6 months after you cease enrollment, graduate or have an enrollment status of less than half time. In addition to delayed repayment, most federal direct loans have relatively low interest rates, several repayment options from which a student can choose.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

A loan for students that has interest while the student is in school. The student can choose to pay the interest while in school or make payments when he/she has stopped attending on an at least half-time (6 credits) basis.

PLEASE NOTE: Unsubsidized student loans begin to accrue interest at the time of disbursement, so you can expect to repay more than the amount you borrowed.

Federal Graduate PLUS

Credit-worthy graduate students can borrow money needed to cover the total educational cost of the academic program, minus other financial aid. These loans are not need-based and are based solely on credit ratings. Please note that a student must borrow the Unsubsidized Direct Loans first. As with any loan, please borrow only what you need since this is money you will have to repay to the Federal Government.

MARYLAND INSTITUTIONAL REFUND POLICY

Peirce College is registered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission to enroll Maryland students in its fully online distance education programs. The following Refund Policy applies to students resident in the State of Maryland who are enrolled in online courses and programs at Peirce College for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Peirce College:

- a) Shall provide a refund to any student who has completed 60% or less of a course, term, or program within the applicable billing period,

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- b) Shall conform to §11–202.2. (d)(1) and (2) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and to COMAR 13B.05.01.10, and
- c) Shall provide for refunds of tuition to Maryland students as provided above

Proportion of Total Course, Program, or Term Completed as of Date of Withdrawal or Termination	Tuition Refund
Less than 10%	90% refund
10% up to but not including 20%	80% refund
20% up to but not including 30%	60% refund
30% up to but not including 40%	40% refund
40% up to but not including 60%	20% refund
More than 60%	No refund

Please refer to the Institutional Refund Policy applicable to non-Maryland residents.

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT RIGHTS UNDER FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Peirce College complies fully with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended, and makes public notification of the law. This “official notice” is incorporated into the Peirce College Graduate Academic Catalog and is available in the Office of the Registrar and on the Peirce College website <https://www.peirce.edu/about-peirce/consumer-information>. In addition, a web message directing students to the “official notice” is posted monthly for all students who log on with their unique ID number and password to OneLogin, My.Peirce app. Students with questions about this notice or about FERPA should contact the College at info@peirce.edu, 215-670-9380, or direct questions to the U.S. Department of Education, c/o Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5901, 202-260-3887 (<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco>).

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. These rights include:

- **The right to review and inspect his/her own education records**

A student has the right to inspect and review his/her own educational records within forty-five (45) calendar days of the date the College receives a request for access to the records. A student seeking to inspect and review his/her own educational records must make a written request to the College at info@peirce.edu. The written request must identify the record(s) he/she wishes to inspect.

Upon receipt of such written request, the Dean, Academic Advising and Registrar, or his/her designee, shall make arrangements for access and shall notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the Registrar, the Dean, Academic Advising and Registrar, shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be made.

- **The right to request the amendment of his/her own educational records**

If a student believes that his/her own educational records contain inaccurate or misleading information or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights under FERPA, the student may submit a request, in writing, to the Registrar seeking that the College amend the record as requested. The written request should identify the part of the educational record that the student wants changed and should specify why it is inaccurate or misleading or otherwise violates the student's privacy rights. Within a reasonable time after receiving such written request, the College shall decide to either amend the educational record as requested or shall notify the student that it has decided not to amend the record and that the student has the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when he/she is notified of the right to a hearing.

- **The right to provide written consent to the release of personally identifiable information**

A student's personally identifiable information contained in his/her educational record may not be released to a third party, including family members, without written authorization of the student, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without such consent.

- **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA**

Students may file a written complaint by writing to the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC, 20202-4605.

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT RIGHTS UNDER FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests

One exception that permits disclosure without prior written consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including security personnel and health/counseling staff and work study students); a person or company with whom the College has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); or a person serving on the Board of Trustees.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional duties for the College.

Directory Information ³

Another exception that permits disclosure without prior written consent is disclosure of student directory information of current students. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the College to include this type of information in certain College publications.

The College has designated the following information as “directory information”:

- Student’s name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Date and place of birth
- Photograph
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Level of education
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without prior written consent.

A student has the right to advise the College that he/she does not wish the College to disclose any or all of the above-listed directory information without the student’s prior written consent. If a student wishes to exercise that right, the student should contact the College at info@peirce.edu in writing within 30 calendars days of the date of this notification and must specify the type(s) of directory information that the student does not want disclosed without prior written consent.

To obtain a list of all of the circumstances under which disclosure may occur in accordance with FERPA law and regulations, contact info@peirce.edu or visit the U.S. Department of Education, Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) website at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpcoc>.

³ These laws are: SECTION 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107–110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by SECTION 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107–107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation’s armed forces

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY (TITLE IX)

This policy is only applicable to alleged incidents of sex discrimination (including sex-based harassment and retaliation) that occur on or after August 1, 2024. For alleged incidents of sex discrimination or sexual harassment occurring prior to August 1, 2024, please see the College's Title IX Policy located on the intranet and College Website. Title IX Policy (2020 Final Rule): Applies to incidents before August 1, 2024. Title IX Policy (2024 Final Rule): Applies to incidents on or after August 1, 2024.

This Policy applies to the College's education program and activities, circumstances where the College has disciplinary authority, and to misconduct occurring within any building owned or controlled by a College-recognized student organization. This Policy may also apply to the effects of off-campus misconduct that limit or deny a person's access to the College's education program or activities.

The College reserves the right to make changes to this policy as necessary, and once those changes are posted online, they are in effect. If government laws or regulations change or court decisions alter the requirements in a way that impacts this policy, this policy will be construed to comply with the most recent government laws, regulations, or court holdings.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Peirce College is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that all educational and employment decisions are based on individuals' abilities and qualifications. Peirce College does not discriminate in its educational programs, employment, admissions or any activities on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, pregnancy, sex/gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, marital or family status, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law, including protections for those opposing discrimination or participating in any grievance process on campus, with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or other human rights agencies.

Consistent with this principle, Peirce College will comply with state and federal laws such as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act or other applicable state law, Title IX, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Ethnic Intimidation Act of 1982 (P.L. 537-154) and other laws that prohibit discrimination.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Kelly Schneider, Esq.
Title IX Coordinator
Healey Hall Room 237
(570)961-7890
SchneiderK@lackawanna.edu

Abbey Judge, Ed.D.
Affirmative Action Officer/
Director of Pre-College
Programs/Deputy Title IX
Coordinator
Healey Hall Room 223
(570) 955-1516
JudgeA@lackawanna.edu

Gopu Kiron, Ed.D.
Affirmative Action Officer/
Associate Dean of eLearning
& Information Literacy
Seeley Hall
(570) 504-7929
KironG@lackawanna.edu

Additional information regarding Title IX requirements and how to file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights: Office of Civil Rights at <https://www2.ed.gov>, 1 (800) 421-3481. Philadelphia Office: Office for Civil rights U.S. Department of Education, The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 515, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3323. Telephone: (215) 656-8541 or Email: OCR.Philadelphia@ed.gov.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY (TITLE IX)

KEY DEFINITIONS

Clery Act means the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1092(f); 34 C.F.R. Part 668.46). In accordance with the Clery Act, the College publishes required crime statistics and policy statements on or before October 1 of each year.

Complainant means:

- A student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX; or
- A person other than a student or employee who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute sex discrimination under Title IX or its regulations and who was participating or attempting to participate in the College's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

Complaint means an oral or written request to the College that objectively can be understood as a request for the College to investigate and make a determination about alleged conduct under Title IX. The following people have the right to make a complaint:

- A Complainant
- A parent, guardian or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to act on behalf of a Complainant; or
- The College's Title IX Coordinator.

Note that a person is entitled to make a Complaint of sex-based harassment only if they themselves are alleged to have been subjected to the sex-based harassment, if they have a legal right to act on behalf of such person, or if the Title IX Coordinator initiates a complaint.

With respect to complaints of sex discrimination other than sex-based harassment, in addition to the people listed above, the following persons have a right to make a complaint:

- Any College student or employee; or
- Any person other than a student or employee who was participating or attempting to participate in the College's education program or activity at the time of the alleged sex discrimination.

Confidential employee means an employee in one of the following categories: (1) confidentiality bestowed by law or professional ethics, such as lawyers, medical professionals, clergy, and mental health counselors; (2) designated as a confidential resource by the College for purposes of providing support and resources to the complainant; and (3) conducting human subjects research (as approved). For the employees in category (1), they must be in a confidential relationship with the person reporting, such that they are within the scope of their licensure, professional ethics, or confidential role at the time of receiving the notice.

Consent as defined in Pennsylvania is an affirmative decision to engage in mutually acceptable sexual activity and is given by clear words or actions. It is an informed decision made freely and actively by all parties. Consent may not be inferred from silence, passivity, or lack of resistance alone. Furthermore, consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity and the existence of a current or previous dating, marital, and/or sexual relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent to additional sexual activity. Consent cannot be obtained from someone who is asleep, unconscious, or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated, whether due to alcohol, drugs, or some other condition. Consent cannot be obtained by threat, coercion intimidation, isolation, confinement, or force. Agreement given under such conditions does not constitute consent.

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Disciplinary Sanction means consequences imposed on a respondent following a determination under Title IX that the respondent violated the College's prohibition on sex discrimination.

Education program or activity includes locations, events, or circumstances in which the College exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the conduct occurred, and also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the College.

Evidence can be exculpatory (favorable to the respondent) or inculpatory (favorable to the complainant).

Party means a complainant or respondent.

Relevant means related to the allegations of sex discrimination under investigation as part of these grievance procedures. Questions are relevant when they seek evidence that may aid in showing whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred, and evidence is relevant when it may aid a decision maker in determining whether the alleged sex discrimination occurred.

Respondent means a person who is alleged to have violated the College's Title IX policy. The requirements related to a respondent apply only to sex discrimination complaints alleging that a person violated the College's prohibition on sex discrimination. When a sex discrimination complaint alleges that a College policy or practice discriminates on the basis of sex, the College is not considered a respondent.

Retaliation means adverse action including intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person by the College, a student, or an employee or other person authorized by the College to provide aid, benefit, or service under an educational program or activity, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or its regulations, or because the person has reported information, made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under the Title IX regulations.

Sex-Based Harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity, that is:

- **Quid Pro Quo Harassment**: An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the College to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the College's education program or activity explicitly or implicitly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
- **Hostile Environment Harassment**: Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's education program or activity. Whether a Hostile Environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
 - The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the education program or activity;
 - The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
 - The parties' ages, roles within the education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;
 - The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
 - Other sex-based harassment in the education program or activity.

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- Specific Sexual Violence Offenses
 - *Sexual Assault* meaning an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
 - *Dating Violence* meaning violence committed by a person: (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (1) the length of the relationship; (2) the type of relationship; and (3) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
 - *Domestic Violence* meaning felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a person who: (A) is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of the College, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim; (B) is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (C) shares a child in common with the victim; or (D) commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.
 - *Stalking* meaning engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to: (A) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (B) suffer substantial emotional distress.

Please note: In accordance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act ("VAWA"), state definitions for Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking and Consent are contained in the College's Annual Security Report. Reported VAWA crime statistics are based on the definitions above.

Supportive measures means individualized measures offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, without unreasonably burdening a complainant or respondent, not for punitive or disciplinary reasons, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent to:

Restore or preserve that party's access to the education program or activity, including measures that are designed to protect the safety of the parties or the educational environment; or

Provide support during the College's grievance procedures or during an informal resolution process.

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING

If you believe that you have experienced or witnessed sex discrimination (including sex-based harassment or retaliation), the College encourages you to notify the Title IX Coordinator, or another responsible employee as soon as possible after the incident. A report may be made to either or both the police and the Title IX Coordinator.

The criminal process is separate from the College's Title IX Grievance Procedure. Resources for reporting to local law enforcement can be found by contacting the College's Human Resources Department. The Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator will assist the complainant in reporting the alleged offense to the local police if the complainant requests such assistance. In addition, the importance of preserving evidence for proof of a criminal offense is conveyed to the complainant at the time of first reporting. Although the College strongly encourages all member of its community report Sexual Violence to law enforcement, it is the complainant's choice whether or not to make such a report. The College's

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response to alleged violations of this policy does not preclude the possibility of criminal action by civil authorities, should the complainant wish to pursue this course of action.

A report provides notice to the College of an allegation or concern about sex discrimination and provides an opportunity for the Title IX Coordinator to provide information, resources, and supportive measures. A complaint provides notice to the College that the complainant would like to initiate an investigation. A complainant or individual may initially make a report and may decide at a later time to make a complaint.

A College employee who either has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the College or has responsibility for administrative leadership, teaching, or advising are considered mandatory reporters and are expected to promptly report all known details of actual or suspected sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator. All other employees are expected to promptly report all known details of actual or suspected sex discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator or provide the Title IX Coordinator's contact information to the individual making the report.

Mandatory reporting may be suspended during a public awareness event. A Title IX Coordinator is not obligated to act in response to information provided by a person during a public event to raise awareness about sex discrimination or sex-based harassment that is on campus or through an online platform sponsored by the College, unless the information indicates an imminent and serious threat to the health or safety of a complainant, any students, employees, or other persons.

An individual who seeks completely confidential assistance may do so by speaking with professionals who have legally protected confidentiality. Confidential reporting resources, such as pastoral or professional counselors do not generate reports to the Title IX Coordinator. The College does not employ confidential employees. Local crisis, mental health and victim resource hotline information is available below. Information shared with confidential resources will not be shared with the College (including the Title IX Coordinator) or anyone else without express, written permission of the individual seeking services unless required by law or court order.

Community Resources, Counseling, Mental Health

Philadelphia Special Victims Unit	300 E. Hunting Park Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124	215-387-9500	Provides initial emergency medical treatment and crisis counseling for services for sexual assault victims
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Networks		800-656-HOPE www.rainn.org	RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline and carries out programs to prevent sexual assault.
New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Trenton, NJ 08609	800-601-7200 24-hour hotline	Provides confidential, hotline, crisis counseling, referral services and emergency client support.
Philadelphia Care Against Violence (WOAR) www.woar.org	One Penn Center 1617 JFK Blvd; Suite 1100 Philadelphia, PA 19103	215-985-3333 24- hour hotline	Counseling, hotline and information about sexual violence and emergency client support.

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SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

The College will offer and coordinate supportive measures as appropriate for the complainant and/or respondent to restore or preserve that person's access to the education program or activity or provide support during the College's Title IX Grievance Procedures or during the informal resolution process. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to: counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures, in collaboration with other campus resources as deemed necessary. The parties are provided with a timely opportunity (within two business days) to seek modification or reversal of the College's decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate supportive measures applicable to them. A request should be made in writing to the Title IX Coordinator. An impartial employee other than the employee who implemented the supportive measures, who has authority to modify or reverse the decision, will determine whether to provide, deny, modify, or terminate the supportive measures if they are inconsistent with the Title IX regulatory definition of supportive measures.

Victims of sexual violence offenses will also be provided with written notification about existing counseling, health and/or mental health services, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, safety planning, timely warnings, student financial aid and other services available to victims within the College and in the community.

The College will maintain the confidentiality of the supportive measures, provided that confidentiality does not impair the College's ability to provide those supportive measures.

ONLINE MISCONDUCT

Although the College may not control websites, social media or other online platforms through which communication that violates the College's policy are made, the College will address reported communications. Online manifestations of the behavior prohibited in this policy are also potential violations of College policy if the communications have an effect on the education program and activity or when they involve the use of College networks, technology or equipment.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The College has adopted grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of sex discrimination (including sex-based harassment and retaliation) made by students, employees, or other individuals who are participating or attempting to participate in the education program or activity, or by the Title IX Coordinator.

These grievance procedures apply to all complaints of sex discrimination. As indicated within this policy, additional grievance procedures apply to sex-based harassment complaints involving student complainants or student respondents.

When a party is both a student and an employee, the College will make a fact-specific inquiry, including whether the party's primary relationship with the College is to receive an education and whether the alleged sex-based harassment occurred while the party was performing employment-related work.

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The College will treat complainants and respondents equitably. The College requires that any Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision maker not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent. A decision maker may be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or investigator.

The College presumes that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination is made at the conclusion of its Grievance Procedures.

Timeframe

The College will make a good faith effort to complete the Grievance Procedures within 60-90 business days, including any appeals, which the Title IX Coordinator can extend as necessary for appropriate cause. The parties will receive updates on the progress, as well as notification and a rationale for any extensions or delays, and an estimate of how much additional time will be needed to complete the process.

Investigations are normally completed within 60 business days, though some investigations may take longer, depending on issues such as the nature, extent, and complexity of the allegations, witness availability, law enforcement involvement, and other factors. The College may undertake a short delay in its investigation (several days to a few weeks) if circumstances require. Such circumstances include but are not limited to a request from law enforcement or the absence of parties and/or witnesses.

The College may consolidate complaints where allegations arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Title IX Coordinator Initiated Complaint

The Title IX Coordinator has ultimate discretion as to whether a complaint is initiated. If a complainant does not wish to file a complaint (or withdraws any or all of the allegations), the Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures and determine whether to initiate a complaint. The Title IX Coordinator will determine if there is a serious and imminent threat to someone's safety or if the College cannot ensure equal access without initiating a complaint. The Title IX Coordinator considers the following factors:

- The complainant's request not to proceed with initiation of a complaint;
- The complainant's reasonable safety concerns regarding initiation of a complaint;
- The risk that additional acts of sex discrimination would occur if a complaint is not initiated;
- The severity of the alleged sex discrimination, including whether the discrimination, if established, would require the removal of a respondent from campus or imposition of another disciplinary sanction to end the discrimination and prevent its recurrence;
- The age and relationship of the parties, including whether the respondent is an employee;
- The scope of the alleged sex discrimination, including information suggesting a pattern, ongoing sex discrimination, or sex discrimination alleged to have impacted multiple individuals;
- The availability of evidence to assist a decision maker in determining whether sex discrimination occurred;
- Whether the College can end the alleged sex discrimination and prevent its recurrence without initiating its grievance procedures; and
- Any other factors deemed relevant by the Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator will notify the complainant prior to initiating the complaint and appropriately address reasonable concerns about the complainant's safety or the safety of others, including by providing supportive measures

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Notice of Investigation and Allegations

Upon initiation of the College's Title IX grievance procedures, the College will notify the parties in writing of the following:

- The College's Title IX grievance procedures and any informal resolution process;
- A meaningful summary of the allegations, including the identities of the parties involved in the incident(s), the conduct alleged to constitute sex discrimination, and the date(s) and location(s) of the alleged incident(s);
- Retaliation is prohibited;
- A statement that the parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence;
- The name(s) of the investigator(s), along with the process an individual can follow to assert a conflict of interest concern against the assigned investigator(s);
- A statement informing the parties that knowingly making false statements, including knowingly submitting false information is prohibited; and
- Detail on how a party may request disability accommodations or other support assistance during the Grievance Procedure.

If, in the course of an investigation, the College decides to investigate additional allegations of sex discrimination by the respondent toward the complainant that are not included in the notice provided or that are included in a complaint that is consolidated, the College will notify the parties of the additional allegations.

If the complaint is a student sex-based harassment complaint, the College will notify the parties in writing of the following with sufficient time for the parties to prepare before any initial interview:

- The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged sex-based harassment until a determination is made at the conclusion of the Grievance Procedures. Prior to such a determination, the parties will have an opportunity to present relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence to a trained, impartial decision maker;
- The parties may have an advisor of their choice who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
- The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence or an investigative report that accurately summarizes this evidence. If the College provides access to an investigative report: The parties are entitled to an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not impermissible evidence upon the request of any party; and
- The College's Code of Conduct and Reporting policy prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance procedures.

Dismissal of a Complaint

The College may dismiss a complaint at any point within the grievance process if one or more of the following grounds are met:

- The College is unable to identify the respondent after taking reasonable steps to do so;
- The respondent is not participating in the College's education program or activity and is not employed by the College;

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- The complainant voluntarily withdraws any or all of the allegations in the complaint (withdrawal must be in writing if a sex-based harassment complaint), the Title IX Coordinator declines to initiate a complaint, and the College determines that, without the complainant's withdrawn allegations, the conduct that remains alleged in the complaint, if any, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX even if proven; or
- The College determines the conduct alleged in the complaint, even if proven, would not constitute sex discrimination under Title IX. Before dismissing the complaint, the College will make reasonable efforts to clarify the allegations with the complainant.

Upon dismissal, the College will promptly notify the complainant in writing of the dismissal and the rationale for dismissal. If the dismissal occurs after the respondent has been notified of the allegations, the College will notify the parties simultaneously in writing of the dismissal.

The dismissal decision is appealable by any party. If the dismissal is appealed, the College will follow the procedures outlined in the *Appeals* section.

Dismissal does not preclude action by the College under other Policies located on the Intranet under "College Policies" for employees and described in the *Undergraduate College Catalog* and *Graduate College Catalog*, including but not limited to:

EMPLOYEE	STUDENT
Code of Ethics	Code of Student Conduct & Responsibility
Equal Employment Opportunity	Equal Opportunity
Acceptable Use of College Information Technology	Acceptable Use of College Information Technology
Campus Safety Procedures	Campus Safety & Security
Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting	Violation of Copyright Laws
Corrective Counseling Policy	Academic Progress, Probation and Dismissal
Alcohol & Drug Policy	Academic Honesty

Advisor

An advisor is an individual who serves to assist a party in a complaint of sex-based harassment and is allowed to attend any meeting related to the grievance procedures. A student can choose an advisor of their choice, who may be but is not required to be an attorney. The College cannot guarantee equal advisory rights, meaning that if one party selects an advisor who is an attorney but the other party does not or cannot afford an attorney, the College is not obligated to provide an attorney to advise that party. If one party is a student, and the other party is not they will have the same right to an advisor.

The College may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in these Grievance Procedures, as long as the restrictions apply equally to the parties. Advisors may not provide testimony or speak on behalf of their advisee unless given specific permission to do so. The parties are expected to ask and respond to questions on their own behalf.

The College may permit the parties to have more than one advisor, or an advisor and a support person, upon special request to the Title IX Coordinator. The decision to grant this request is at the Title IX Coordinator's sole discretion and will be granted equitably to all parties.

Informal Resolution

In lieu of resolving a complaint through the College's Title IX grievance procedures, the parties may instead elect to participate in an informal resolution process. The College will not offer informal resolution

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to resolve a complaint when such a process would conflict with Federal, state or local law. The College will obtain voluntary, written confirmation that all parties wish to resolve the matter through informal resolution. Before the initiation of an informal resolution process, the College will explain in writing to the parties:

- The allegations;
- The requirements of the informal resolution process;
- That any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and initiate or resume formal grievance procedures at any time before agreeing to a resolution;
- That if the parties agree to a resolution at the end of the informal resolution process, they cannot initiate or resume formal grievance procedures arising from the same allegations;
- The potential terms that may be requested or offered in an informal resolution agreement, including notice that an informal resolution agreement is binding only on the parties; and
- What information the College will maintain and whether and how the College could disclose such information for use in Title IX formal grievance procedures if such procedures are initiated or resumed.

Investigation

The College will provide for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints. The burden is on College—not on the parties—to conduct an investigation that gathers sufficient evidence to determine whether a violation occurred.

For sex-based harassment complaints, the College will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all meetings or proceedings with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. The College will also provide the parties with the same opportunities, if any, to have other people than the advisor of the parties' choice present during any meeting or proceeding.

The College will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present fact witnesses and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence that are relevant and not otherwise impermissible. The College will review all evidence gathered through the investigation and determine what evidence is relevant and what evidence is impermissible regardless of relevance.

The College will provide each party with an equal opportunity to access the evidence that is relevant to the allegations of sex discrimination and not otherwise impermissible, in the following manner:

- The College will provide an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, or an accurate description of this evidence. If the College provides a description of the evidence, the College will provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence upon the request of any party;
- The College will provide a reasonable opportunity (7 business days) to respond to the evidence or the accurate description of the evidence; and
- The College will take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' unauthorized disclosure of information and evidence obtained solely through the formal grievance procedures. Disclosures of such information and evidence for purposes of administrative proceedings or litigation related to the complaint of sex discrimination are authorized.

For sex-based harassment complaints, the College will provide each party and their advisor, if any, an equal opportunity to access either the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence, or the same written investigative report that accurately summarizes this evidence. If the College provides access to an investigative report, it will further provide the parties with an equal opportunity to access the relevant and

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not otherwise impermissible evidence upon the request of any party. The College will provide a reasonable opportunity (7 business days) to review and respond to the evidence or the investigative report. The College will take reasonable steps to prevent and address the parties' and their advisors' unauthorized disclosure of information.

Interview Recording

Investigators will create a record of all interviews pertaining to the Grievance Procedure. The parties may review copies of their own interviews upon request. No unauthorized audio or video recording of any kind is permitted during investigation meetings.

Questioning the Parties and Witnesses

The College will provide a process that enables the decision maker to question parties and witnesses to adequately assess a party's or witness's credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations. To the extent credibility is in dispute and relevant to one or more of the allegations, the decision maker may meet individually with the parties and witnesses to question them in order to assess their credibility. These meetings will be recorded, and the recording or transcript will be shared with the Parties.

For sex-based harassment complaints, the decision maker will question parties and witnesses to adequately address a party's or witnesses' credibility to the extent credibility is both in dispute and relevant to evaluating one or more allegations of sex-based harassment. The College's process for proposing and asking relevant and not otherwise impermissible questions and follow-up questions of parties and witnesses, including questions challenging credibility will:

- Allow the investigator or decision maker to ask such questions during individual meetings with a party or witness;
- Allow each party to propose such questions that the party wants asked of any party or witness and have those questions asked by the investigator or decision maker during one or more individual meetings, including follow-up meetings, with a party or witness, subject to the procedures for evaluating and limiting questions discussed below; and
- Provide each party with an audio or audiovisual recording or transcript with enough time for the party to have a reasonable opportunity to propose follow-up questions.

Procedures for the decision maker to evaluate the questions and limitations on questions

For sex-based harassment complaints, the decision maker will determine whether a proposed question is relevant and not otherwise impermissible before the question is posed and will explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant or otherwise impermissible. Questions that are unclear or harassing will not be permitted. The decision maker will give a party an opportunity to clarify or revise a question that the decision maker determines is unclear or harassing. If the party sufficiently clarifies or revises the question, the question will be asked.

Refusal to respond to questions and inferences based on refusal to respond to questions

The decision maker may choose to place less or no weight upon statements by a party or witness who refuses to respond to questions deemed relevant and not impermissible. The decision maker will not draw an inference about whether sex-based harassment occurred based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to respond to such questions

Evidence

The College will objectively evaluate all evidence that is relevant and not otherwise impermissible, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

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The following types of evidence, and questions seeking that evidence, are impermissible (*i.e.*, will not be accessed or considered, except by the College to determine whether one of the exceptions listed below applies; will not be disclosed; and will not otherwise be used), regardless of whether they are relevant:

- Evidence that is protected under a privilege recognized by Federal or State law or evidence provided to a confidential employee, unless the person to whom the privilege or confidentiality is owed has voluntarily waived the privilege or confidentiality;
- A party's or witness's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional in connection with the provision of treatment to the party or witness, unless the College obtains that party's or witness's voluntary, written consent for use in its grievance procedures; and
- Evidence that relates to the complainant's sexual interests or prior sexual conduct, unless evidence about the complainant's prior sexual conduct is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct or is evidence about specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual conduct with the respondent that is offered to prove consent to the alleged sex-based harassment. The fact of prior consensual sexual conduct between the

complainant and respondent does not by itself demonstrate or imply the complainant's consent to the alleged sex-based harassment or preclude determination that sex-based harassment occurred.

Determination

If the decision maker is not the investigator, the decision maker will review the investigative report and all relevant evidence to make a finding and determine sanctions, if applicable. In accordance with the procedure above, the decision maker can ask the parties or any witnesses additional relevant questions through individual meetings. To the extent credibility is in dispute and relevant to one or more of the allegations, the questions asked by the decision maker may explore credibility. Typically, within 3 business days of the last individual meetings, the recordings or transcript will be provided to the parties for review. The parties will then have 3 business days to review these recordings or transcripts and pose any follow-up questions. The decision maker will review the proposed questions to determine relevance and permissibility. If deemed necessary, the decision maker will meet with the parties or witnesses for whom there are relevant, non-duplicative follow-up questions. These follow-up meetings will also be recorded, and the parties will receive the recordings or transcripts. This is the final round of questioning, unless the decision maker determines that an additional round is necessary.

Any new, relevant evidence and information obtained will be added to the investigative report. The College will provide a reasonable opportunity (7 business days) to review and respond to the evidence or the final investigative report.

The decision maker's determination process typically takes 15 business days. However, the timeframe may vary based on a number of factors. The parties will be notified of any delays. Following the investigation, the decision maker will evaluate the investigative report and all relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence. The College will then:

- Use the preponderance of the evidence standard of proof to determine whether sex discrimination/sex-based harassment occurred. The standard of proof requires the decision maker to evaluate relevant and not otherwise impermissible for its persuasiveness. If the decision maker is not persuaded under the applicable standard by the evidence that sex discrimination/sex-based harassment occurred, whatever the quantity of the evidence is, the decision maker will not determine that sex discrimination/sex-based harassment occurred.

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- Notify the parties in writing of the determination including the rationale for such determination, and the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal, if applicable.
- For sex-based harassment determinations, the College will notify the parties in writing of the determination whether sex discrimination occurred under Title IX including:
 - A description of the alleged sex-based harassment;
 - Information about the policies and procedures that the College used to evaluate the allegations;
 - The decision maker's evaluation of the relevant and not otherwise impermissible evidence and determination whether sex-based harassment occurred;
 - When the decision maker finds that sex-based harassment occurred, any disciplinary sanctions the College will impose on the respondent, whether remedies other than the imposition of disciplinary sanctions will be provided by the College to the complainant, and, to the extent appropriate, other students identified by the College to be experiencing the effects of the sex-based harassment; and
 - The College's procedures and permissible basis for the complainant and respondent to appeal
- Not impose discipline on a respondent unless there is a determination at the conclusion of the Title IX grievance procedures that the respondent engaged in prohibited conduct.
- If there is a determination that a violation occurred, the Title IX Coordinator will, as appropriate:
 - Coordinate the provision and implementation of remedies to a complainant and other people the College identifies as having had equal access to the education program or activity limited or denied;
 - Coordinate the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent, including notification to the complainant of any such disciplinary sanctions; and
 - Take other appropriate prompt and effective steps to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the College's education program or activity.
- Comply with the Title IX grievance procedures before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions against a respondent; and
- Not discipline a party, witness, or others participating in the Title IX formal grievance procedures for making a false statement or for engaging in consensual sexual conduct based solely on the determination whether sex discrimination occurred.

The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the College provides the parties with the written determination of the result of any appeal, or, if no party appeals, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND REMEDIES

Disciplinary sanctions against the Respondent will not be imposed before completion of the College's Grievance Procedure. Following a determination of responsibility, appropriate corrective action will be taken, and the College will take steps to prevent recurrence. Disciplinary sanctions taken will be determined on a case-by-case basis. For disciplinary action to be issued under this policy, the respondent must be a College employee or student at the time of the alleged incident.

Factors considered when determining disciplinary sanctions may include but are not limited to:

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- Nature, severity of, and circumstances surrounding the violations(s);
- Respondent's disciplinary history;
- Previous allegations or allegations involving similar conduct;
- Need for disciplinary action to bring an end/prevent future reoccurrence of the violation;
- Need for disciplinary action to remedy the effects on the Complainant and the College community;
- Impact on the parties;
- Any other information deemed relevant by the decision maker.

Disciplinary sanctions for student-related claims may include, but are not limited to: additional training; restriction on contact; warning; suspension; or termination. Disciplinary sanctions will be placed in a student's permanent academic file. Any employee determined by the College to be responsible for a violation of the College's policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions, up to and including termination. Disciplinary sanctions will be placed in an employee's permanent personnel file. Employees are also subject to processes and discipline determined by the Human Resources Department. The HR process is separate and apart from the Title IX process and not constrained by the outcome of the Title IX process.

- Disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed against a student or employee found in violation of this policy include:
- Disciplinary Warning or Reprimand - a disciplinary warning or reprimand is an official written statement of censure;
- Letter of Apology to the Aggrieved Party - a student/employee may be required to write a letter of apology to the aggrieved party;
- Requirement to Seek Counseling - the student/employee shall be required to provide evidence to the Title IX Coordinator of attendance and completion of counseling by a qualified professional;
- Participation In, or Conducting, Special Workshops, Classes or Seminars - a student/employee may be required to participate in, or to develop, and present special workshops or seminars related to a Title IX violation;
- Research Assignments - a student may be required to complete a research assignment on a topic related to the Title IX violation within a specified deadline;
- Community Service - a student/employee may be required to perform work assignments at the College or in the local community;
- Persona Non Gratis - prohibiting entry into a specific building on campus for a specific amount of time due to interference with the community;
- No Contact Order - prohibits contact between students/employees when there exists a reasonable concern that physical or psychological harm may result from such contact;
- Withholding of an Official Transcript - may be imposed upon a student who fails to fulfill sanction requirements for a violation;
- Disciplinary Probation - disciplinary probation may be imposed for a specified period of time;
- Suspension/Administrative Leave – suspension/administrative leave from the College; the duration will be determined by the decision maker;
- Expulsion/Termination – is the most severe sanction that the College may impose and is permanent dismissal from the College. In addition, the student is not eligible for readmission to the College, the employee is not eligible for rehire and students/employees will be permanently barred from Peirce College property and from all College-sponsored events;
- Other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the decision maker.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY (TITLE IX)

Remedies are provided to a Complainant whenever a Respondent is found responsible. Remedies are implemented by the Title IX Coordinator and may be disciplinary and punitive. Student Remedies are designed to maintain the Complainant's equal access to education. Remedies will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may include supportive measures.

APPEALS

The College will offer an appeal from a dismissal of a complaint or determination whether sex-based harassment occurred on the following bases:

- Procedural irregularity that would change the outcome;
- New evidence that would change the outcome and that was not reasonably available when the determination or dismissal was made; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that would change the outcome.

When a complaint is dismissed, the College will, at a minimum:

- Offer supportive measures to the complainant as appropriate;
- If the respondent has been notified of the allegations, offer supportive measures to the respondent as appropriate; and
- Take other prompt and effective steps, as appropriate, through the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that sex discrimination does not continue or recur within the education program or activity.

If a party appeals a dismissal or determination whether sex-based harassment occurred, the College will:

- Notify the parties in writing of any appeal, including notice of the allegations, if notice was not previously provided to the respondent;
- Implement appeal procedures equally for the parties;
- Ensure that the decision maker for the appeal did not take part in an investigation of the allegations or dismissal of the complaint;
- Ensure that the decision maker for the appeal has been trained consistent with the Title IX regulations;
- Communicate to the parties in writing that the College will provide the parties a reasonable and equal opportunity to make a statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome; and
- Notify the parties in writing of the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result.

An appeal must be submitted in writing within seven (7) business days. Any additional procedures or bases for appeal the College offers will be equally available to all parties.

RETALIATION PROHIBITED

The College prohibits retaliation, including peer retaliation. If the College has information about conduct that reasonably may constitute retaliation under Title IX, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the reporting party or party experiencing the retaliation. Upon receiving a complaint alleging retaliation, the College will initiate its grievance procedures utilized for other forms of sex discrimination.

Training

The following individuals must receive training related to their duties under Title IX promptly upon hiring or

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change of position that alters their duties under Title IX and annually thereafter. This training is in addition to other state-required sexual harassment prevention and education. These individuals include:

- *All employees.* All employees must be trained on the College's obligation to address sex discrimination in its education program or activity; the scope of conduct that constitutes sex discrimination under Title IX, including the definition of sex-based harassment; and; all applicable notification and information requirements for the formal Grievance Procedure
- *Investigators, decision makers, and other persons who are responsible for implementing the grievance procedures or have the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures.* In addition to the training requirements as an employee, all aforementioned individuals must be trained on the College's obligations in the Grievance Procedure; how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias and; the meaning and application of the term "relevant" in relation to questions and evidence, and the types of evidence that are impermissible regardless of relevance under the aforementioned formal grievance procedures.
- *Facilitators of informal resolution process.* In addition to the training requirements as an employee, all facilitators of an informal resolution process must be trained on the rules and practices associated with the informal resolution process and on how to serve impartially, including by avoiding conflicts of interest and bias.
- *Title IX Coordinator and designees.* In addition to the training requirements as an employee, and Grievance Procedure participant, and informal resolution officer, the Title IX Coordinator and any designees section must be trained on their specific responsibilities; the recordkeeping system; and any other training necessary to coordinate the College's compliance with Title IX.

EMERGENCY REMOVAL

The College can remove a respondent entirely or partially from the education program or activities on an emergency basis when an individualized safety and risk analysis has determined that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations justifies removal. The College will provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.

When an emergency removal is imposed, the affected student will be notified of the action, which will include a written rationale, and the option to appeal the emergency removal within two (2) business days of the notification. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will meet with the student (and their advisor, if desired) as soon as reasonably possible thereafter to allow them to demonstrate why the removal/action should not be implemented or should be modified. When this meeting is not requested within two (2) business days, objections to the emergency removal will be deemed waived. A student can later request a meeting to show why they are no longer an imminent and serious threat because conditions related to imminence or seriousness have changed.

An emergency removal may be affirmed, modified, or lifted as a result of a requested review or as new information becomes available. The Title IX Coordinator will communicate the final decision in writing, typically within three (3) business days of the review meeting.

When the respondent is an employee (or student employee) accused in the course of their employment, Human Resources provisions for interim action, including leave, are typically applicable instead of the above emergency removal process.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY (TITLE IX)

FEDERAL TIMELY WARNING OBLIGATIONS

The College must issue timely warnings for reported incidents that pose a serious or continuing threat of bodily harm or danger to members of the College community. The College will ensure that a complainant's name and other identifying information is not disclosed, while still providing enough information for community members to make safety decisions in light of the potential danger.

IMPARTIALITY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any Title IX personnel materially involved in the Grievance Procedure may neither have or demonstrate a conflict of interest or bias for a party generally, or for a specific complainant or respondent. At any time, the parties may raise a concern regarding bias or conflict of interest, and the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether the concern is reasonable and supportable. If so, another individual will be assigned, and the impact of the bias or conflict, if any, will be remedied. If the source of the conflict of interest or bias is the Title IX Coordinator, concerns should be raised with either of the individual below:

Dr. Rita Toliver-Roberts, Ed. D, Provost, Peirce Operations
toliverr@lackawanna.edu
(215) 670-9265

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY

The College makes every effort to preserve the parties' privacy. The College will keep confidential the identity of the complainant, respondent, and witnesses, except as may be permitted by FERPA, as required by law, or as necessary to carry out the Title IX Grievance Procedure.

The College will take reasonable steps to protect the privacy of the parties and witnesses during its grievance procedures. These steps will not restrict the ability of the parties to obtain and present evidence, including by speaking to witnesses; consult with their family members, confidential resources, or advisors; or otherwise prepare for or participate in the formal grievance procedures. The parties cannot engage in retaliation, including against witnesses.

The College will not disclose personally identifiable information obtained in the course of compliance with this policy, except in the following circumstances: (1) If there is prior written consent from a person with the legal right to consent to the disclosure; (2) When the information is disclosed to a parent, guardian, or other authorized legal representative with the legal right to receive disclosures on behalf of the person whose personally identifiable information is at issue; (3) To carry out the purpose of the policy including action taken to address conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination under Title IX; (4) As required by Federal law, Federal regulations, or the terms and conditions of a Federal award, including a grant award or other funding agreement; or (5) To the extent such disclosures are not otherwise in conflict with Title IX or this part, when required by State or local law or when permitted under FERPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or its implementing regulations, 34 CFR part 99.

The parties and their advisors are prohibited from disclosing information obtained by the College through the Grievance Process, to the extent that information is the work product of the College (meaning it has been produced, compiled, or written by the College for purposes of its investigation and resolution of a complaint), without authorization. It is also a violation to publicly disclose college work product that contains a party or witness's personally identifiable information without authorization or consent. Violation of this Policy is subject to significant sanctions.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY (TITLE IX)

RECORDKEEPING

For at least seven (7) years following the conclusion of the Grievance Procedure, the College will maintain records of:

- Each investigation and resolution, including any determination regarding responsibility or appeal, and any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript required under federal regulation.
- Any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent.
- Any supportive measures provided to the parties and any remedies provided to the complainant or the community designed to restore or preserve equal access to the education program or activity.
- Any appeal and the result therefrom.
- Any informal resolution and the result therefrom.
- All materials used to provide training to the Title IX Coordinator and designees, investigators, decision makers, appeal decision makers, informal resolution facilitators, and any person who is responsible for implementing the College Grievance Procedures or who has the authority to modify or terminate supportive measures. The College will make these training materials available for review upon request.
- All materials used to train all employees consistent with the requirements in the Title IX Regulations.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Qualified students with a disability needing reasonable accommodations should contact the Title IX Coordinator, who will work with College's Disability Coordinator. Employees with a disability needing reasonable accommodations should contact their Manager and/or Human Resources. All parties will review the request and, in consultation with the person requesting the accommodation, determine which accommodations are appropriate and necessary for full process participation.

Parenting and Pregnant Students

The College does not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy or related conditions. The College does not engage in prohibited discrimination when it allows a student, based on pregnancy or related conditions, to voluntarily participate in a separate portion of its education program or activity. The College ensures that the separate portion is comparable to that offered to students who are not pregnant and do not have related conditions.

When a student, or a person who has a legal right to act on behalf of the student, informs any employee of the College of the student's pregnancy or related conditions, unless the employee reasonably believes that the Title IX Coordinator has been notified, the employee promptly provides that person with the Title IX Coordinator's contact information and informs that person that the Title IX Coordinator can coordinate specific actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to education programs or activities.

The College does not require supporting documentation unless the documentation is necessary and reasonable for the College to determine the reasonable modifications for the qualifying student.

Reasonable Modifications

The College ensures that reasonable modifications to the policies, practices, or procedures will be provided as necessary to prevent sex discrimination and ensure equal access to the education programs

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or activities. Each reasonable modification is based on the student's individualized needs. In determining what modifications are required under this paragraph, the College will consult with the student. If a modification would fundamentally alter the nature of its education program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator must demonstrate it is not a reasonable modification.

A student has discretion to accept or decline each reasonable modification offered. Reasonable modifications may include, but are not limited to:

- Breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom;
- Intermittent absences to attend medical appointments;
- Changes in schedule or course sequence;
- Extensions of time for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations;
- Allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby;
- Counseling;
- Changes in physical space or supplies (for example, access to a larger desk or a footrest);
- Elevator access; or other changes to policies, practices, or procedures.
- Allow for "off camera" participation in classes.

Voluntary Leave

Pregnant students are allowed to voluntarily access any separate and comparable portion of the education program or activity. Students may also voluntarily take a leave of absence from the College educational program or activity to cover, at minimum, the period of time deemed medically necessary by student's licensed healthcare provider. To the extent that a student qualifies for leave under the College's leave of absence policy, that allows a greater period of time than the medically necessary period, a student is permitted to take voluntary leave under that policy instead of the parenting and pregnant policy if the student so chooses. When the student returns to the College, the student will be reinstated to the academic status and, as practicable, to the extracurricular status that the student held when the leave began.

Lactation Space

The College ensures parenting students and employees can access a lactation space that is clean, shielded from view, free from intrusion from others, and may be used by a student for expressing breast milk or breastfeeding as needed. To request information on the lactation space available, contact the Human Resources Department or Associate Dean, Student Support Services, at thomast@lackawanna.edu

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students and employees may contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions related to this policy. Concerns about the College's application of this policy and compliance with Title IX may also be addressed to U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") at 400 Maryland Ave, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-1100, (800) 421-3481, <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>. For complaints involving employee-on-employee conduct, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or other appropriate state or federal enforcement agency can be contacted.

PRESERVING INFORMATION

Complainants, Respondents, and witnesses should consider whether there is information to gather that might be helpful to investigator(s) and should preserve relevant items. For example, receipts, text

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messages, pictures, videos, emails, Facebook posts or messages, Snapchats, or other social media posts may be helpful during an investigation or hearing. It may be helpful not to delete this information and preserve it for later. Also, Complainants and Respondents are encouraged to write down a list of possible witnesses to submit to investigator(s).

PROTECTION FROM ABUSE (PFA) AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROTECTION (SVPO) ORDERS

A Protection from Abuse Order is a civil order that provides protection from harm by family or household members, sexual or intimate partners, or someone with whom you have a child in common. A Sexual Violence Protection Order is similar to a PFA and offers civil protection to any victim of sexual violence who is at risk of harm from their perpetrator. PFA's and SVPO's are issued by a judge. Peirce College will honor any official PFA's or SVPO's issued. Copies of such orders should be given to the Dean, Academic Advising and Registrar (students) or the AVP, HR and Chief D&I Officer (employees).

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST

Peirce College has authorized the **National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)** to provide transcript ordering via the Web. Transcript orders will be transmitted electronically to Peirce College from NSC and will be processed by the Office of the Registrar. Peirce College official paper transcripts will be sent via standard delivery. Official electronic transcripts are converted into a PDF document and delivered to the recipient using the Clearinghouse GlobalSign certificate or Electronic Transcript Exchange. E-transcripts are available only for students entering the College after 1991. Peirce College will not fax or email official transcripts under any circumstances. The College will not accept requests made by telephone, fax, or electronic mail.

Transcripts are released only with the written permission of the student. All financial obligations must be met in order to receive an official transcript. If there are outstanding financial obligations on a student's record, Peirce will only forward an unofficial transcript until payment has been made. The student will be notified if a financial hold exists. Students can order official transcripts using any major credit card; the credit card will only be charged after the transcript has been sent. The fee per transcript ordered is \$5.00 or \$6.00, depending upon the delivery method chosen. Transcripts can be ordered from Peirce College under the Transcripts Requests portlet on the home page of my.peirce.edu.

Requests made by family for a transcript of a deceased person are honored if proof of death, such as a death certificate, is provided. To make this request, please contact the Office of the Registrar at 215-670-9380.

TUITION PAYMENT

Peirce College offers several different payment options. They are as follows:

- Payment in full prior to the start of each session.
- Payment plan set up through the duration of the semester without a credit card on file. Notification prior to the due date is emailed to students. (A \$35 fee is charged for this service.) Students participating in the payment plan option must sign a payment installment agreement.

A valid credit card must be on file in the Student Financial Services as a guarantee of payment for the following options:

- Payment Plan — set up through the duration of a term with a valid credit card. The credit card on file is charged on the agreed upon dates without prior notification.
- Tuition Reimbursement — available to students who have the option of being reimbursed by their employer once they submit a paid receipt and the grade. A valid credit card is charged at the end of each course. A paid receipt is then emailed once the student request is submitted to billing1@peirce.edu.
- Tuition Deferment — available to students who have the option of being reimbursed by their employer once they submit an invoice and the grade. An invoice is emailed at the end of the drop/add period of each session once the student request is submitted to billing1@peirce.edu. Payment is made to the College upon receipt of the funds from the employer. If payment is not received after eight weeks, or when the class ends, the credit card on file will be charged.
- Direct Billing — available to students who receive tuition assistance from their employers through a voucher system. Tuition vouchers are submitted to the Student Financial Services prior to the start of each session.

Forms for the above-mentioned options can be accessed through the following link: <https://my.peirce.edu>.

It should be noted that all payments are to be in U.S. dollars (cash, check, money order, or credit card). It is the policy of Peirce College that all tuition payments are nonrefundable after the Drop/Add period for each session.

Failure to Comply

Peirce College expects its students to honor their financial obligations, repaying tuition balances in accordance with the payment plan to which they have agreed. The College reserves the right to drop students who are delinquent in their payments from upcoming classes. The College also reserves the right to deny access to the online component of classes for students who are delinquent in their payments. Students are financially obligated to pay the costs of any unreturned library materials. In the event that a student fails to satisfy his/her financial obligations to the College by incurring a past due balance, the student must contact the College immediately to make payment arrangements and to sign a promissory note. If a student's past due balance has had no activity for a two-month period, the College reserves the right to financially dismiss the student and to assign the student's account to a collection agency or to an attorney. A student who has been financially dismissed will be eligible for reinstatement only after he/she has paid his/her balance in full. If a student's account is assigned to a collection agency or to an attorney, the student will be liable for the past due balance as well as for accrued interest and any collection or attorney fees that may be incurred. Students will not be permitted to participate in the commencement ceremony or receive official transcripts and diplomas unless all financial obligations are met.

Peirce College will not impose any penalty including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered student borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the student's ability to meet his or

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her financial obligations to the college due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, Chapter 33, or Post 9/11 GI Bill® benefits.

*The trademark symbol “®” should be placed at the upper right corner of the trademarked phrase in the most prominent place at first usage; such as the title of a brochure, form, or the very top of a webpage and the following trademark attribution notice must be prominently visible: **GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.***

Graduate Tuition and Fees for the 2025-26 Academic Year

Peirce College offers one of the lowest private college tuition costs in the nation. Moreover, we do not charge additional for our online courses or increase tuition for out-of-state students.

- Graduate courses are 3 credits.
- The cost of each credit is \$772.
- Comprehensive service fee is \$200 per term.

Related Costs

- Course Audit fee \$200
- Graduation fee \$100
- Credit for Portfolio Assessment (per course) \$350
- Capstone course extension fee \$750
- Non-refundable application fee \$50
- Payment Plan fee (per term) \$35
- Return Check fee (per check) \$25
- Transcript fee (per transcript) \$5 or \$6, depending upon the delivery method chosen
- Late Payment fee (per month for balance due) 1%

Updated August 2025